Many Area Covered Bridges Were Built by J. J. Daniels

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Joseph John Daniels was born at Marietta, Ohio, May 22, 1826. His father, Stephen Daniels, was of Welsh extraction, descended from a family of ship building and sea-faring men, and himself a contractor and builder. The mother was Sophia Warren, a direct descendant of the Massachusetts family of the name. Her father was reported to have been Stephen Warren, a soldier of the American Revolution and cousin of Gen. Joseph Warren.

During his boyhood years Joseph J. Daniels was permitted to attend such schools as the day afforded, but only in a desultory way, and without over-using the term "self-made" he was fond of stating that aside from the rudiments he received at his mother's knee he was self-taught. From both his parents he inherited studious habits and a taste for reading.

At a very early age he took up the trade of carpentry under his father's guidance, and was probably not over 17 or 18 years old when he went with his father and older brother down the Ohio, over to Cincinnati, to work as carpenters, one of the family's bread winners.

All his leisure time was devoted to reading, and during the winter spent at Cincinnati, young Daniels sat apart in the barroom or office of the tavern where he lived, with a tallow candle for light, and read everything he could lay his hands on.

Stephen Daniels was first a builder of houses and later a builder of bridges. He had left his native community in 1819 to move west to Olean, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a carpenter a short time, then moved on to Marietta, Ohio, and from there to Ironton, Ohio, where he gave up houses carpentering and began bridge building exclusively. Later he returned to Marietta, living there until his death in 1853.

Joseph J. Daniels learned the bridge building trade from his father. In 1851 he came to Parke County, Indiana, to build a bridge in Union township, and ten years later he located permanently in Parke County.

In 1851 he was married to Clarissa Jane Blessing at Spring Valley, Ohio. She was of German extraction and her home was in Pennsylvania. They had five children, Henry, who became an attorney at Rockville; Edward, an attorney at Indianapolis; Parke, who lived in Mississippi; and two daughters who died in childhood.

The business of public construction, particularly of grades and bridges, drew Mr. Daniels into railroad work, then almost in its infancy in 1855. Scarcely 30 years of age, he was called to Evansville, Ind., and was made general superintendent of the old Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad. He served in this capacity for three years with singular success. A copy of the rules for the government of employees which he formulated and published was framed and hung on the wall for many years in the C. & E. I. railroad building at Evansville.

In 1861 the Parke County commissioners awarded him the contract to build a bridge across Sugar Creek at the then important trading center known as Rockport Mills. A few weeks later the Civil War was declared, and because both national and state administrations were Republican, and the policy of President Lincoln and Governor Morton was to promote the utmost unity of Democrats and Republicans, the example of "Old Hickory" was put before the people of Indiana everywhere. Because of this, Mr. Daniels named the beautiful new covered bridge "Jackson Bridge" in commemoration of Jackson's defiance hurled in the faces of Calhoun and his co-conspirators of nullification—"The Federal Union, it must and shall be preserved."

The people of Parke County considered it fortunate indeed for Parke County that Joseph J. Daniels cast his lot in life there. While building the Rockport bridge, he decided to become a citizen of the county and accordingly moved to Rockville. He purchased the property which for 55 years was his home.

For 40 years after coming to Parke County, Mr. Daniels was actively engaged in extensive operations as a builder of bridges. In addition to the many bridges constructed by him for Parke County, he erected important bridges for other municipalities and railroads, among them bridges over the Wabash river at Terre Haute and Clinton, and a railroad bridge across Big Raccoon which stood for 30 years, bearing a tonnage of locomotives and cars three times as great as prevailed when it was erected.

Daniels is credited with the building of more than a dozen bridges in Parke County, about that number in Vermillion County, three in Putnam County, two in Montgomery, and one in Vigo County (the one over the Wabash river). One of the best known bridge builders in the western part of the state for many years, he built his first Indiana bridge near the town of Rising Sun in 1850. He also built many bridges in Ohio and Kentucky. His reputation was one of unimpeachable honesty.

Joseph J. Daniels died at his home in Rockville in 1916 at the advanced age of 90 years. His widow, age 86, his three sons, and one sister Mrs. Sarah Rodenbarger, of Terre Haute, survived him. The pallbearers were sons and representatives of old friends of the deceased. They were Isaac N. Ott, C. R. McCune, Isaac R. Strouse, Frank H. Nichols, Fred H. Stark and Joe M. Ellett.

I'm indebted to Mrs. Bettie Dempsey for furnishing more biographical material on Joseph J. Daniels, her father's uncle and her grand-uncle.

Valley heritage

*Clark, Dorothy & *~~Biography~~ ~~Jones, Joseph~~

Postmaster served under 7 presidents

Historically speaking

Clark retired as the Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

The interesting story of the life of Terre Haute's longtime postmaster, Joseph O. Jones (1815-1899), as related by his daughter, Lillian J. White, begins with the parent's families of Ezra Jones and his second wife, Sarah Allen, in Vermont. Ethan Allen of Ticonderoga fame was the uncle of Sarah Allen.

A particular favorite of Ezra's family lived across the border in New York state, in Whitehall on Lake Champlain. In the late fall of 1815, Sarah (Allen) Jones went to visit there, became snowbound, and on Nov. 8 her son, Joseph Orlando Jones, was born.

The baby was named for his mother's uncle, the brother of Ethan Allen, who was the first U.S. minister to Chile.

When a large group of Vermonters started out west to try the milder winters, Ezra Jones was among them. They traveled in wagons across New York to Olean where boats were built for the long voyage down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Louisville.

There the party settled while some of the men went on to Indiana and up to Vincennes and beyond. They entered land at the government land office, then returned for their families. One of these men was Ezra Jones. His large family included the baby, Joseph O. Jones. The land he purchased was near what is now Mount Pleasant Church on the Riley Road.

Ezra Jones was a civil engineer. He also served as Vigo County commissioner and as sheriff. He found it profitable to take boat loads of grain down the Wabash, the Ohio, and the Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, returning with cotton goods and merchandise needed by the early settlers here.

On one of his return trips, he became ill as the boat neared Evansville. Friends took him ashore there, gave him care, but after a brief sickness, he died and was buried in Evansville.

There was also much malaria and sickness here in Vigo County, and soon after his death, his wife also sickened and died, leaving a large family. Young Joseph was 9 years old.

An older sister living in Vermillion County took him to her home to live. Five years later a childless uncle living in New York state sent for Joseph, so at age 14 he made the journey east.

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Active in the Episcopalian church, this uncle and his wife insisted on religious training. Soon young Joseph had memorized the prayer book from cover to cover.

When he expressed a desire to see New York City, his uncle fitted him out, gave him money and wished him well. He arrived in the big city on a boat from Albany. After weary search for employment, he found a job with Harper Bros. Printing House. He liked books, liked to read, but did not like the confinement, nor the printer's devils in the print shop.

So, he ran away to sea. Out of Bedford, Mass., he signed on for a nine-month whaling voyage. When that ended, he shipped out on a merchantman, round trip, to Amsterdam, Holland. Within a year he was a sailor on a cotton ship, plying between New York and the Carolina ports.

Returning to his uncle, then living in Utica, N.Y., and postmaster of the town, Joseph clerked in his office for three years. Encouraged by his uncle, who was an accountant, Joseph developed a keen mathematical mind. This was his introduction to a post office career.

A brother in Indiana urged him to return west, so after an absence of seven years, Jones returned to Terre Haute, where he and his brother opened a merchandise store. But the Panic of 1837 closed this business venture for a two-year period.

In 1839 he applied for the position of postmaster of Terre Haute, and was appointed by Postmaster General Amos Kendall. The office business increased until it came under the classification of presidential offices, and Jones received a commission from President Martin Van Buren for four years in 1841.

That was just a month before William Henry Harrison was inaugurated. In another month, when President John Tyler succeeded Harrison, he removed many of the holdover postmasters, but he didn't remove Postmaster Jones.

In 1845, Jones went to Washington to take a position in the Post Office Department, which he held through President Polk's term, and a few months under Zachary Taylor. In 1849, Jones was appointed as Special Agent to collect balances due the postal department from offices in southern Michigan, Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

Travel was by boat, stage and horseback. He collected $16,000, and carried it in boxes to its destination at St. Louis in spite of a boat wreck at Peoria and saivaging the money boxes from the bottom of the river, and an attempted holdup at an Alton, Ill., hotel.

In 1850, Jones and his brother-in-law, Dr. Azel Holmes, went to New York, bought medical supplies and headed for California to answer the need for doctors and to help fight the cholera scourge. It was a sad trip, for Dr. Holmes had just established his hospital when he sickened and died. Heartsick and discouraged, Jones returned home by way of the Isthmus, arriving in Terre Haute in 1852.

The next year he was appointed postmaster by President Pierce. In those trying years before the Civil War, his political enemies criticized him as disloyal to the Democratic party because of his stand against slavery, but he remained postmaster until President Buchanan was inaugurated. He was removed because he had openly supported John C. Fremont for president.

In 1861, Jones was appointed postmaster by President Lincoln. His reappointment was in the Senate when Lincoln was assassinated. President Johnson withdrew all appointments.

Jones was serving late in 1866 when he was asked if he

would support President Johnson's policies. He said he would if they were Republican. So, later he was removed.

In May, 1881, President Garfield appointed him postmaster, and he continued to serve under President Arthur's term, and a few months under President Cleveland, when the post was given to Mr. Reagan, a Democrat.

Interviewed by a local reporter on his 84th birthday, Jones was reported to be in excellent health. A number of friends remembered him with beautiful flowers. His knowledge of and love for floriculture and horticulture was well known.

He enjoyed his fine library, as well as keeping in touch with current history and events. Death came peacefully, while he slept, on his country's birthday, July 4, 1899. He had served as Terre Haute postmaster under seven presidents.

Jerry Mugivan and the Circus

ST 1-27-57

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Terre Haute has had many famous sons, and one of the most colorful was Jerry Mugivan, a truly great showman. The recent interest shown in the passing of the Ringling Bros. Circus will remind many old time circus fans of his fame.

Dorothy J. Clark.

The Mugivan family originally came from Knightsville, Ind., about three miles east of Brazil, to Terre Haute, where they resided at 107 South Eleventh street. Jeremiah Sr., was a blacksmith in the old Vandalia Shops. Jerry, one of six children, attended St. Patrick's Parochial School until he was fifteen years old. He then left school to become a newsdealer on the trains in and out of the Union Station.

His interest in the circus began in 1896 when he "Joined out" with a small circus. Having a positive genius for finance and amazing organizing ability, he learned the circus business thoroughly, and in 1904 the young hustling showman heard of some circus equipment for sale in Kansas City, Mo., that could be had for a reasonable figure. He and his friend Bert Bowers made the trip to Kansas City to inspect the property which they bought and put the 10-car show into shape to open the season in Missouri. Billed as the "Great Van Amburg Shows," this was the first circus venture of these partners whose names were to become famous in circus history.

Saw First In 1907.

In correspondence with Charles E. Duble, of Jeffersonville, Ind. (better known as 'Trombone Charley" in his circus days) he tells me that he saw this first show in 1907 when it played in his hometown, and was with his shows in later years as band musician. Mr. Duble is Associate Editor of the circus publication "Bandwagon."

There were many changes in the next few years in the titles of the shows and much buying up of other circuses by Mugivan and Bowers. By 1914 the show was enlarged to 20 cars. In 1916 the partners bought the John Robinson Shows, the largest show they ever put on the road —at least 40 cars. Because of World War I conditions, the train was often side-tracked as war equipment had priority. This sometimes resulted in late arrivals, late parades and late afternoon shows. There was also a help shortage. For the 1918 season the John Robinson Circus was reduced to 30 cars.

Purchased Hagenback-Wallace.

In December, 1918, they purchased the Hagenback - Wallace Show and put the Howes Great London Show back on the road again. Between 1920 and 1929 they acquired the Sells-Floto Circus—the Buffalo Bill Wild West—the Sparks Circus—the Al G. Barnes Trained Animal Show — Gollmar Bros. Show. In 1921 the American Circus Corporation had been organized to cover the legal handling of all these various properties.

In 1929 the circus world was greatly surprised to learn of one of the biggest deals in circusdom. John Ringling had purchased the entire holdings of the American Circus Corporation, including the five circuses and the vast winter quarters in Peru, Ind., and other properties.

Lived In Peru.

Jerry Mugivan made his home in Peru where he built an imposing mansion. He died in a Detroit hospital after surgery on January 23, 1930, at the age of 56 years, and was buried in Peru. Rising from humble surroundings, he became one of the most colorful figures in the circus world, a millionaire before he was forty, and as well-known abroad as in America.

He returned to Terre Haute frequently and kept up friendships here. He presented the lions to Deming Park, and at one time brought a circus here to aid a Rose Polytechnic fund drive. In 1927 he gave the pipe organ to St. Margaret Mary's Church here and donated $2,000 to the new St. Patrick's School then being built.

Famous Jerrys.

Another correspondent of mine, Ed Moyer of the Indiana State Soldiers Home in Lafayette, Ind., has a great interest in circuses and theatricals of the past. He tells me that "old timers around the Hut will no doubt recall three famous 'Jerrys' — Jerry Fitzgerald, the baker — Jerry Shandy, the druggist (and later Postmaster)— and Jerry Mugivan, Circus King."

Two famous clowns used to winter in Brazil, Ind., about 1912—Lou Moore and Fred Egener, who played with the Hagenback-Wallace Show for some years. He recalled that Jake Skelton ("Red" Skelton's father) also was with this show.

A notice from the Peru Ind., "Republican" states that "black and white, rich and poor, mourned his passing. The big Irishman with a rough voice and a warm heart had endeared himself to all. Old veterans of the sawdust rings were moved to tears. Known to the troupers as 'Big Boss' in years of circus life, he was respected by all."

There are many residents of Terre Haute, I'm sure, who still remember Jerry Mugivan, the super showman. His only living relatives are his sister, Mrs. Fred Mohr, 1600 Ohio street, and several nieces and nephews.

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Dentist For [illegible]ty-one Years

T-S 2-24-57

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

To learn more about the history of dentistry in Terre Haute, I interviewed Dr. Frank P. Anshutz, 1601 South Fifth street, who is 83 years old, the oldest dentist in the city. He was born in 1873 in Ohio, and as a young man debated whether to become a dentist or to follow his dream of becoming an artist. When the time came to decide whether it would be art school or dental college, the latter won out. His father, who was a dentist, offered to pay all expenses if he would consent to go to dental college.

Dorothy J. Clark.

Another contributing factor was his engagement to the young lady who was later to become Mrs. Anshutz. He has never regretted his decision to become a dentist. His first love—drawing—became an absorbing hobby. After seeing some of his talented work, I feel sure he would have been just as successful in that field.

In the history of the Anshutz family there have been fourteen dentists up to the present time. His father, brother, uncles, cousins, son and grandsons comprise this family of dentists. Dr. Anshutz graduated from Ohio Dental College at the University of Cincinnati in 1895. This was the second oldest dental college in the United States, the first being at Baltimore. The great problem at that time was to find the solution to painless dentistry.

Used Laughing Gas.

Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) was the anesthetic most generally used, but most people were afraid of any type of anesthetic. One of his professors was successful in using hyposis on those few patients who were susceptible. Now we read frequently of the use of hyposis as a modern method, when it has been used for a great many s. People took very little care heir teeth, and pyorrhea was y common. One needed to be a ro to withstand the painful fillings, so most people waited until extractions were absolutely necessary.

In 1895, dentists didn't know too much about blocking off nerves with local anesthetics such as we have now. In fact, novocaine wasn't patented until 1901 for the first time. Weak solutions of cocaine were injected hypodermically by large-gauge needles. Another great improvement are the very fine needles used in modern dentistry. Ethyl chloride was used as a spray on the outside of the jaw where the tooth was to be extracted.

However, the after effects of this freezing process were almost worse than the extraction would have been without using anything. The most common aid was whisky. The patient with the toothache would come to the office well supplied with a bottle and proceed to drink himself (or herself) insensible to pain before the extraction.

Community Affairs File

Came Here in 1903.

Dr. Anshutz began his practice after graduation in Franklin, Ind., coming to Terre Haute in 1903. All the equipment needed to set up an office at the turn of the century was a chair, forceps, cuspidor, a foot engine (treadle-type similar to the sewing machine) used to power the drill, and necessary instruments to fill teeth and equipment for the laboratory. If the patient could stand it, the dentist would drill and fill. If not, he'd extract the tooth.

It was the custom in those days to call the dentist to the home whenever he was needed. Sometimes a hysterical patient with a sympathetic audience of doting relatives would give the young dentist a bad time.

In 1903 when Dr. Anshutz first came to Terre Haute, he bought Dr. Vaughn's office at Sixth and Wabash over McKeen's Bank (where Rogers Jewelry Store is now) and remained there eight years until he could acquire office space at Seventh and Wabash in the building owned by "Andy" Coffman.

This building is where the Fannie May Candy Store is now, but at that time was the United Cigar Store. There was over 30 different applicants for this office space where Dr. Anshutz established his office and remained for over 20 years. It was here that he installed the first dental X-ray machine in Terre Haute. The first models were very dangerous with exposed wires and cannot compare with the present day machines which are absolutely safe and easy to operate.

Larger Quarters Acquired.

Larger quarters were indicated in the early 1930's and when Dr. Duenweg quit his practice, moving out and leaving desirable rooms on the front of the fourth floor of the Tribune Building, Dr. Anshutz and his son Wade, took over these offices. This was to be one of the first really modern dental office in Terre Haute. For several months, partitions were changed, new plumbing installed and the latest decorating ideas were used. The draperies were ordered from Marshall Field in Chicago; the carpets were chosen to harmonize with the different wall colors of each room. The latest electric lift chairs were installed, the newest in cabinets, all the latest in equipment such as pulp-testers, automatic waterfilling glasses, etc. A far cry, indeed, from the chair, forceps and cuspidor of the first office!

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Some of the early dentists here that Dr. Anshutz remembers were Dr. Marbach, Dr. Clarence Williams, Dr. Ervin, Dr. Brown and Dr. Mail, who was the most prominent at that time.

Dr. Anshutz recalled his first automobile which was a "Cole." This auto was manufactured in Indianapolis. It was a big, lumbering vehicle weighing over a ton and a half, but the height of fashion then.

The office secretary, Mrs. Ruth Hines, has been with the Drs. Anshutz for over thirty years. Dr. Anshutz decided to retire last year due to ill health, but he keeps up his license and plans to return to the office soon to help with the making of artificial plates and dentures which has been his speciality. His son Wade, and his grandsons Wade, Jr., and Frank B., carry on the family tradition of fine dentistry.

Clark, Dorothy.

Thomas Dean Leaves Family To Explore Wabash Valley

T. H. Trib-Star 6/23/48

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Quaker Thomas Dean served as attorney and agent for the Brothertown Indians of Oneida Co., New York. In 1817 he left behind him a large, beautiful home, situated in the charming Oriskany Valley, at Deansboro, New York, a wife and five children, his many responsibilities including those of postmaster, justice of peace, college trustee, and sole ownership of the Friends Cotton & Woolen Manufactory, to journey from central New York to central Indiana, all the way by water.

The purpose of the journey was to secure land in the West for the Brothertown Indians, where they could move from the injurious influence of the white population on the weakness of the Indian character.

The boat which he built for the journey drew twenty-one inches of water. It carried five Indian chiefs, two of their wives, three passengers, and Thomas Dean, their attorney, agent, and captain, then only 34 years old.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

They took the usual water route from New York to reach the Ohio River and thus reach the mouth of the Wabash River. The southern part of Indiana he found sparsely settled, but the central and northern parts were still wildernesses in 1817. In his voyage from Fort Harrison up the Wabash to the mouth of the Mississinewa River and return, a distance of about 360 miles, he does not mention in his diary or journal of having seen a single white man.

The Indians he met on the river could not speak English and he therefore had great difficulty in communicating with them. He was looking for good land, well wattered, and describes the fine, fertile, silent prairies near the Wabash. In his journey on foot from Fort Harrison to the White River country and return, he passed through a wilderness of forests sparsely inhabitated by Indians. The hardships were most severe. What would a man of today think of making a journey from Terre Haute to Fort Wayne, about 220 miles, most of the way on foot, with a heavy pack on his back? Some days Dean and his party travled 40 miles.

We of today are particularly interested in Thomas Dean's journal of his trip in 1817 because it tells us what our part of the world looked like before Vigo Co. was formed one year later in 1818.

Twenty Miles on Foot

After leaving Vincennes and starting up the river to Fort Harrison, Dean tells of reaching the Shaker settlement on "Busero Prairie" where they stopped overnight and to buy supplies. Dean was interested in the Shaker way of life, their gardens and orchards. In turn the Shakers went out on the river to see the boat and how it would run.

This Shaker settlement on Busseron Creek was one of the earliest in Sullivan County.

Dean and his party left there July 25th and spent the next night fifteen or sixteen miles up river where they stopped at a Frenchman's house.

On the 26th they went on shore to view Lamott's Prairie five or six miles upstream. They had traveled about twenty miles, reaching Union Prairie on July 27th where they found the newly laid out town of York on the west bank of the river. The proprietors of the town were John F. Richardson and Israel Harrison from New York.

Living off the land, so to speak, Dean and his crew fished in the river, killed wild geese and turkeys and bought milk and potatoes, etc. from the farm houses along the way.

On July 28th they put up on the beach four or five miles above Prairie Creek prairie, which he described as a very handsome place. Here they saw very large flocks of geese.

The entry for July 29th reads – "We went up the river four or five miles, went on shore, and ate breakfast. I went back about a mile into the woods and found a house on the Honey Creek prairie, and procured some cucumbers. After breakfast we passed on eight or nine miles and came to a place called Terre Haute, where there is a village laid out. We stopped a few moments and went on. There was a hard shower and a hurricane. We went on to the bank and waited till it was over and then went up to Fort Harrison, where we arrived about 7 p.m. This is about 20 miles that we came today and about 140 miles from Vincennes. We put up at John A. Lafond's, who had no family but kept house and a little store."

Thomas Dean did not succeed in acquiring Indian lands in Indiana, but later removed the Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians to a 23,000-acre tract on the east shore of Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin which they still occupy. He died at Deansboro, N.Y., in 1843. The entire journal can be read in Vol. 6 No. 2 of the Indiana Historical Society publications.

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AP Newsfeatures

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Barnabas Hobbs Known In Educational Groups

10-17-71

Co

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Vigo County Public L

One can not read much local history without finding the name of Barnabas C. Hobbs, LL.D. He was active in business, social and educational circles here in Terre Haute in early days.

Oddly enough though, as often as we find his name, nothing could be found of a biographical nature in any of our local county histories, etc.

Goodrich's "History of Indiana" published in 1875, does tell something about Hobbs' life and accomplishments.

"He was born near Salem, Washington county, Indiana, Oct. 4, 1815. His early years were passed in familiar acquaintance with the trials, privation, and labors of pioneer life, and his education was such as was to be had in the log schoolhouse of that day."

It seems that when Barnabas was 18 years of age he entered the county seminary and lived in the home of Benjamin Parke, then U.S. Judge for the District of Indiana and a great influence in his life.

Hobbs began school teaching when he was 18 and in 1837 became acquainted with William H. McGuffey, the author of the Eclectic Readers, who opened the way for him to enter Cincinnati College, over which he then presided. Hobbs continued teaching to pay his expenses. Here he came in contact with some of the greatest teachers of the day and this had much to do in determining his future character.

He was soon after employed as principal teacher in Jefferson county, Ohio where he remained nearly four years until his marriage. A favorable opening induced him to establish a school in Richmond, Indiana, in the spring of 1843.

Dorothy Clark

After a successful four years, he accepted superintendency of a friends' boarding school, now Earlham College, for two years.

In 1851 he moved to Parke County to take the presidency of Bloomingdale Academy, staying there for nearly 16 years.

At the extra session of the legislature of 1865, a law was passed creating a State Normal School, an institution for which Hobbs had long and earnestly labored. He was appointed by Gov. Mor on as one of the trustees, a position he was still holding in 1875 when the book was printed.

the common school would grade properly into the high school and the high school into the college and state university; and for the rights of colored citizens to the benefits of school funds.

As chairman of a committee of the National Superintendents Assoc., at Washington, he proposed such national legislation as would equalize

Continued On Page 5, Col. 6.

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In 1866 he was delegated by the Board of Trustees to visit the several normal schools in the United States to obtain the necessary information from their experience, preparatory to the construction of a building best adapted to such an institution. The architect used the recommendaton in Hobbs' report for the building plans.

During the summer of 1866 he was chosen the first president of Earlham College and professor of English literature. After two years he was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1868.

Advocated Changes

His duties in this important position kept him busy with county visits, public addresses and official reports. He advocated the necessity of additional tax for the extension of the school term in rural districts; of the necessity of county superintendents; the need for changes in our school laws; for the perfectin of our public school system so that

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

the school funds of the States, especially with reference to southern states, where school funds had been lost by the Civil War.

Barnabas C. Hobbs was one of the earnest advocates of reform schools for both boys and girls, and for prison reforms. He was one of the trustees and incorporators of the Terre Haute Industrial School (later Rose Polytechnic Institute), founded by the munificent endowment of Chauncey Rose, Esq., and had charge of selecting and sustaining, at the State Normal School, about twenty young ladies, by the liberal provision of the same gentleman. These were chosen from about 30 different counties, and the total number so aided by 1875 was over 60.

After Hobbs had finished his term of service as state superintendent, he returned to his home at Bloomingdale where he resumed the presidency of Bloomingdale Academy.

Although he was unable to complete his regular college course because of finances, his success in his chosen profession secured for him an honorary master's degree by Wabash College in 1858, and the degree of Doctor of Laws by the State University (later Indiana Uni.) in 1870. IU twice offered him the professorship of English literature but he refused.

Hobbs was employed by the state geologist in 1872 to make a geological survey of Parke County. His report may be found in the geological reports for that year.

A member of the Society of Friends, he was approved as a Quaker minister for more than 20 years, but he was liberal and tolerant towards all.

AP Newsfeatures

Vigo Co

Eli St. Clair Served as Vigo Area Well Digger

11-14-71

Ter. Trib-Star

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

It never fails to happen when one is digging up local history that as soon as the word gets around that a certain item or bit of information is needed, helpful people begin sending or bringing it in. Three years ago I was researchng the St. Clair family and more information is still coming in.

Eli St. Clair attained his 97th birthday on March 27, 1891, according to the old newspaper clipping I received, and quietly celebrated the event with his family and friends at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Smock, who lived on the historic site known as Fort Harrison.

Born in 1794 in Sussex County, Delaware, Mr. St. Clair had only a faint recollection of his parents. His father served in the Revolutionary War and moved his family to Pennsylvania on the banks of the Monongahela river when Eli was less than a year old.

Soon the family began the long journey to Kentucky, settling at Hardensburg when Eli was six years old. In 1812 he married Miss Fannie Siner who was not quite 15 years old, the daughter of Benjamin and Polly (Maladay) Siner. The marriage license of Breckinridge County, Ky., gives his name as Eli Simpler, and in other records there are other spellings such as Sinclair, Sinklear, Sinkler.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

With two babies, Eli and Fannie decided to leave Kentucky and move to Indiana where they settled first in Sullivan County near Carlisle.

In 1838 Eli St. Clair and his family of 12 children (Lavina, born 1814; Polly, born 1816; Nelson, born 1818; Benjamin, born 1819; Andrew Jackson, born 1820; Ellender Jane, born 1822; Cynthis Eveline, born 1823-4; Emily Maria, born 1825-6; William James, born 1827; Clemsey Curry, born 1829; Richard Lane, born 1830; and John Martin, born 1832) came to Terre Haute and stayed for awhile in "Old Johnny" Burton's log cabin which was later the site of the well in Woodlawn Cemetery.

The place was not used as a burying ground then. The original cemetery was directly south of the house. It was not the most cheerful spot in world to live, next door to a graveyard, but the St. Clair family was made of stern stuff and gave no heed to the gloomy white tombs within a stone's throw of their door.

After living in Terre Haute for several years, Eli, his wife and several of his children moved to Minnesota and commenced farming. As he was the first settler in that area, it was called St. Clair's Bluff. Becoming dissatisfied the St. Clair family returned to Vigo County and settled in Honey Creek Twp.

Flatboat Pilot

During his nearly a century of life, St. Clair had been a farmer, carpenter, river pilot and well digger. During the early days he had been a flatboat pilot between Terre Haute and New Orleans making between 50 and 60 trips down the Wabash and back.

Engaged by Jim Johnston, a store keeper on Main Street, he took the cargo to New Orleans, disposed of it for one thousand dollars in a solid chunk of gold. He placed the gold in a sack, sewed the sack to his shirt, and it was never seen from the time it was given him until he turned it over to Johnston.

During his stay in Sullivan County the Indians were very troublesome, and St. Clair could tell some terrifying tales. He accompanied Col. Ledgerwood to Chicago on foot and they had the honor of nailing down the floor in the first courthouse there. It seems the workmen walked off the job when the building was nearly finished and would not return. The planks were all dressed and stacked in the house when Col. Ledgerwood secured the contract and the two men put down the floor.

During his residence in Terre Haute he had watched it grow up into a large city, had seen the cornfields and woods disappear to make room for buildings. Making a living digging wells was a dangerous occupation in those early days and the old gentleman carried scars to prove it.

His wife died in 1862, one son was drowned in 1840, and his other children lived until 1886 when one by one they

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

passed away. In 1891 on his birthday he still had seven children living and more grandchildren, etc. than he could begin to name. He died April 6, 1892, at age 98 years.

From one of his descendants, Maud Russell of California, came her memories of Aunt Polly Smock's house at Fort Harrison and the time she spent as a child playing on the banks of the Wabash river in front of the house.

The Wabash was "big and wonderful. I would stay so long down there playing with the rocks and toads that she would send someone down to see if I was drowned yet. I always took some of the rocks home with me to Illinois, but not the toads. How the world does change and all of us with it. However, I heard someone say on the radio, 'The past is only a memory away.'"

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Seba Case Was Example Of Rugged Early Settlers

Is JAN 2 1972

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Born in New York State in 1794, Seba Case was reared and educated in the east. At the age of 26 he moved to Ohio for two years before coming to Indiana and locating at Terre Haute in 1818. Four years later he moved to Parke County in 1822.

According to the county histories, Seba Case was a man of great natural ability, the type of man that would succeed in most any environment. Operating a sawmill at the location where Roseville was to be founded, he entered 80 acres of land from the government. As he prospered and improved this wild land he added more acreage until he owned 500 acres at his death in 1879.

He and his wife Mary Stilson had three children: Horace, Marvin H. and Mrs. Eliza King.

Marvin H. Case, born in 1835, was a typical son of a Hoosier pioneer. He helped clear and improve the homestead and attended the rural schools and two years at Bloomingdale Academy. He became one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in Parke County as well as the largest landowner in the county. He owned 2,000 acres in Florida and Raccoon townships.

In 1863 he married Sarah Hartman and had three children: Burt; Seba H., who married Ethel Evans and had two children: Max and Marvin; and Cora E., who married Fred W. Beal and had a daughter Roselyn.

The last named Marvin H. Case, great-grandson of the pioneer Seba Case, loaned to me some of the early family letters. One letter dated 1832 came from Canandaugua, New York, written by Rossell and Candace Root, old family friends who gave news of the family still living in New York to the absent Hoosiers.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

A letter dated 1835 was addressed to Seba H. Case, Roseville, Park(e) County, Indiana, and was written by his sister and brother, Hiram Case. "Absent brother, a long time has elapsed since I have written to you which I hope you will excuse. It was agreed between Hiram and I that we should get together some time and write to you. He and his family came here last evening for a visit and . . . I feel it our duty and also a highly favoured privilege that we can keep up a correspondence by letter though a wide forest separates us . . . I have but little news to tell you. The price of produce is as follows: wheat 75 cents, corn 50 cents, oats 44 cents per bushel, hay ten dollars per ton, pork five and a half and six dollars per hundred, and other produce in proportion. We have had some pretty cold weather this winter and but little snow. I have traded the poney for a horse and my old cattle for another one. My business this winter has been lumbering. I think I shall make one hundred dollars counting my work and feed for my team nothing. I

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Dorothy Clark

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wish you would answer this as soon as convenient. Let me know your calculations for the ensuing season."

The other half of the letter began "Absent Brother and Sister, agreeable to your request I improve this opportunity to inform you of our health which is good at this time hoping these may find you injoying the same blessing. We had some talk whilst you was here of driving cattle this season. Working cattle is worth $60 to $80, cows from $15 to $25, two and three year old steers and heifers are worth $3 per hundred."

"I wish you to write in an-

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

swer to this what such cattle can be purchased for in your country . . . I received a letter from Brother M. Beeman stating that our folks are all well in Canandaugua. We are informed that Daniel buryed a child on the 17th of February. It was about four weeks old. He also stated that he was about selling his farm to settle in this country. Aaron Spencer and Lyman Hathaway has moved to this country since you left here. We had a visit from Brother Fisher's son and Cousin Elias Case says Aunt and folks are all well. I often think of the time when you left our desolate cottage in the wilderness. Maria and I dropped a few tears which give some relief to us. We miss your company very much. Our respects to you and Mary and William and Hiram and remember our respects to Laury and family" . . . this was signed Hiram Case and Maria Case. From the letter it would appear that Hiram lived in Ohio, while Seba had moved on to Parke county, Indiana. The original family still lived in Canandaugua, New York, but was gradually moving out to the Midwest.

One letter stated that "your Mother wishes you to visit Lorra (also spelled Laury) and be more like a father to her than a brother. We expect she sees trouble in this world."

Letters from friends spoke of "we hope if you live you will not fail of coming the next season. Mr. Castle can tell you all and more than I can write about your friends and acquaintances in this country. Things are grately altered since you were last home by death and removes but we want you to come and see for yourself. If it be possible bring your lady with you. Your mother would be glad of an interview with her while she lives . . . and hopes for conversion of all her children," etc.

Mention was made in one letter of a horse left behind. "Cate was as gay as a lark in two or three weeks after you left here. I sold her to A. Edwards, saddle and bridle, for $87."

Another interesting item in the Case family papers was a receipt dated January 7, 1854. "Received from Seba H. Case $500, installment on shares of Capital Stock in the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad." This was signed by William M. Nail and Scott Nail, Collector.

The owner of these unique family documents is Marvin H. Case, R. R. 2, Rosedale, Ind. His father was Seba H. Case; his grandfather, Marvin H. Case; his great-grandfather, Seba Case. A biographical sketch and portrait of his grandfather appears in the "Parke & Vermillion Counties" history book.

Clark, Dorothy T-5 4/9/72

John M. Coleman Served As the First Postmaster

Postal Service (Vigo Co.)

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

John L. Beard, who settled with his father in 1837 on their farm in Pierson Township, once said, "When we came here there was no post office handier than Terre Haute, and that is where we got our mail. I remember it well in the earlier days. The stage was a great sight then. When the E. & T.H. came through here and Pimento was established we made that our post office and did most of our trading there." He was not the only pioneer who went 13 miles for mail in those days.

When Fort Harrison was built in Vigo County in 1811, the only messages from the outside world came by special carrier or settlers arriving at the fort. Almost all messages came or went by the river route.

The first definite record of a post office in Vigo County was the appointment of Curtis Gilbert at Fort Harrison on December 4, 1817. Post offices were established in western Indiana and eastern Illinois, and, in the fall of 1818, Gilbert handed over the post office to John M. Coleman, the newly appointed first postmaster of Terre Haute, a tiny village of log houses.

After much research, the following list of postmasters of Terre Haute is as nearly accurate as possible:

John M. Coleman, 1818-1828; John F. Cruft, 1828-1830; Francis Cunningham, 1830-1837; Dr. George B. Graff, 1837-1839; Joseph O. Jones, 1839-1844 (first time); Stephen G. Dodge 1845-1849; James T. Moffatt, 1849-1852; Joseph O. Jones, 1853-1856 (second time), Burwell H. Cornwell, 1856-1860; Edward B. Allen, 1860-1861; Joseph O. Jones, 1861-1866 (third time); Dr. Ezra Read, 1866-1868; Linus A. Burnett, 1869-1872; Nicholas Filbeck, 1873-1881; Joseph O. Jones, 1881-1885 (fourth time); John F. Regan, 1885-1888; David C. Greiner, 1889-1872; Allen H. Donham, 1893-1896; Frank E. Benjamin, 1897-1900; Samuel E. Gray, 1901-1909; Thatcher A. Parker, 1910-1913; John J. Cleary, 1914-1922; John A. Austermiller, 1923-1926; William G. Hays, 1927-1931; John W. Wood, 1932-1936; Jerome F. Shandy, 1936-1950; Frank L. Miklozek, 1950 — present time.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

During the time of Postmaster Filbeck, Terre Haute became a free delivery office. This system was established Oct. 1, 1878. There were 115 applications for six positions as mail carriers. Mr. Filbeck selected the following Civil War veterans: George Miller, John Kuppenheimer, James P. Johnson, George Hayward, Frank Mills and I. Newt Adams.

The evening before the carriers started on their first rounds, Mr. Filbeck declared all of the 2,000 boxes vacant, which were rented at the post office, and all the mail of the city was delivered by the carriers.

From those six mail carriers the Terre Haute Post Office now has over 300 postal employes, over 90 years later.

In 1896 a system of Rural Free Delivery was begun. One of the first rural carriers was placed in Bartholomew county, Indiana. The rural free delivery did much for the farmer. He could be certain that his mail and daily paper would be delivered to his mail box in spite of bad weather, muddy roads, etc.

That first carrier though nameless, deserves as much credit as the early settlers who broke their ways through tangled forest and prarie and made homes in Indiana and farther West. Indiana claims the proud honor of being the parent State of rural free delivery.

The rural carriers wore the same uniform, provided at their own cost, and each frunished himself with a special delivery wagon with "U.S. Mail, Rural Delivery Route No. ....," and the location

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Dorothy Clark

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painted on the front and sides. Each horse-drawn wagon had a sliding door at the sides with a glass front and was fitted up with pigeon holes in which the carrier sorted his mail as he rode along. There was also a contrivance for heating the wagon in cold weather.

All the mail boxes along the route were of galvanized iron, furnished and painted by the patrons of the route. They were nailed to posts of the correct height to bring them level with the postal wagon. As he drove up along side the box, the carrier opened his sliding door and dropped the mail in the box, at the same time raising a zinc signal which was attached. If there was any mail for him to collect he found this signal raised; if, in return, he had none to deliver he turned the signal down. If the signal was not raised and he had no mail to deliver, he drove by without stopping. Each carrier also had a whistle to signal the box owners.

By 1901 some 72 of the 92 counties in Indiana had rural mail delivery. Only those counties in the southern part of Indiana where the hills made such service difficult were without rural delivery.

First Rural Delivery

On Monday, Dec. 4, 1889, Wood McComb left Terre Haute Post Office on his first frip. He had very little mail in his pouch and drove his own buggy. It was a novel sight—something never witnessed before. Later Mr. McComb acquired one of the latest delivery wagons marked "R.F.D. No. 1." (a photo of this famous first can be seen at the Historical Museum) This route went south over the Prarieton road and returned by the First Street Road.

About Sept. 15, 1900, three new routes were established in Vigo county. RR No. 2 with David Solomon went south over 25th Street to Lockport Road where it turned East following the line between Lost Creek and Riley Townships to a point one mile West of the county line Here it turned north to Poplar St. Road and returned to the city. About one-third of his route was on clay roads.

Another rural route with Ed Farmer as carrier left from the Edwards Post Office located five miles north of Terre Haute. He traveled the Rockville road to Sandcut, west and north over the clay and sand roads with many windings until he reached the north county line, then west to Atherton and Lafayette Road. The next year he went to Rosedale and west to a point one mile west of Atherton and back to Edwards.

The third route left West Terre Haute post office and covered a large area of Sugar Creek township. About four miles were ungraveled. Mr. W. A. Sanford was the carrier and handled more mail each trip than any of the other carriers.

On Nov. 1, 1902, two rural routes were established from Vermillion, Ill. post office both of which were chiefly in Vigo county. Officially they were R.F.D. No. 1 and No. 2, but local citizens called them "north" and "south."

The carrier Owen Rowe, came into the county at the northwest corner and passed through Libertyville, east to Shepherd school house, south and southwest to Mrs. Barbour's corner on the Clinton road, then northwest to New Goshen and west to Vermillion.

Route No. 2 with Ote Wright as the carrier entered the county at the northwest cor- at the south side of Sanford, along the state line, then along thd Fayette township line to a point one mile north of St. Mary's, then to the Clinton gravel road; north to Blandford passing by the Rose Hill Church, finally to the state line again.

Two more mail routes were planned for the Pimento area in 1901. Cassius C. Carr was the carrier for the No. 1 route west of the village. The one running east, Route No. 2, had A. Sterritt as carrier.

In the spring of 1901 the government contracted with the Terre Haute Electric Co. to carry mail on the Interurban line between Terre Haute and Brazil. This meant Glenn, Seelyville and Cloverdale as well as Terre Haute and Brazil received mail by this route. A photo of this interurban car with the inscription "U.S. Mail" upon its side can be seen at the Historical Museum.

In another few years mail was to be delivered at every door in the United States except in the most remote mountainous and sparsely setetled sections and in small villages where the post office was within easy reach.

—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Dr. Allen Pence was devoted to helping others

Pence Family - Genealogy File

The JAN 1 1978

The first Spiritualist Society of Terre Haute was organized in May, 1867. T. A. Madison was elected as president.

In 1869, the society reorganized to become legalized. Mrs. Anna M. Stewart gave her first seance at Pence's Block on Jan. 1, 1873.

One of the most devout believers in spiritualism in Terre Haute was Dr. Allen Pence (1819-1908), a fine physician for 64 years, and, at the time of his death, the oldest practicing doctor in the community.

Born near Urbana, Ohio, he lived on a farm until the age of sixteen when he began teaching school in Logan County, Ill.

Two influences determined him to study medicine — the inborn love of ministering to the sick, which he inherited from his mother, and an accident which, at the age of six weeks, permanently dislocated his hip and incapacitated him for manual labor for life.

This physical disability turned his attention to all bodily suffering and determined him to devote his life to alleviate suffering in others.

Beginning the study of medicine at the age of 18, he completed the course three years later at Springfield, Ill., where he made the acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln.

Pence located first at Danville, and then came to Terre Haute on the Fourth of July, 1844. About a month later he rented an office at Second and Ohio streets, and remained in that locality until his death.

In 1852 he established a drugstore in the same building with his home, and in 1864 erected the building which came to be known as Pence's Hall, southwest corner of Second and Ohio streets.

In connection with his medical practice, he conducted a successful business, and was elected alderman by the Republicans in 1862, and by the Democrats in 1868, another proof of his great popularity in town. He served as city commissioner in 1872, and was well respected in all civic affairs.

Pence was first married in 1846 to Miss Elizabeth Sparks, who died several years later. Their two children died in infancy.

In 1850, he married his second wife, Miss Louise Weinhardt, by whom he had a son, who died at the age of eighteen months. Dr. and Mrs. Pence celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary a few weeks before his death. Their daughter was Mrs. V. N. Griffith.

Pence was described as "a man of great singleness of purpose, never losing sight of his early ambition to become a good and conscientious physician. His family life was kind and gentle, and he was tolerant of the faults of others, while maintaining a strict standard for his own life.

"He had an unusually keen sense of humor, with the tenderness, generosity and hospitality which usually accompany it," states C. C. Oakey's "History of Greater Terre Haute." "As a friend and a host he was therefore charming."

In his professional capacity he never spared himself, and the night was never too black or cold, or the distance too great, to deter him from cheerfully responding to a sufferer's call.

In quite an unobtrusive way, he was a strong force in the growth of the city, and without display or flourish accomplished many acts of charity. He was a devout believer in Spiritualism, and for many years Pence's Hall was the center for its supporters.

The area of Second and Ohio streets boasted an Astrologer also. An item in the local Gazette of 1876 states, "Mrs. Neimeyer takes pleasure in announcing to the public her peculiar power of Astrology. She is prepared to inform parties satisfactorily in regard to law suits, love affairs, marriages and missing or stolen objects.

"She is in possession of the Seventh Book of Moses and the latest Astrological works, and is able to give grand and satisfactory revelations of life." Her residence was at Second and Ohio streets, above Meissels' grocery, between Second and Third streets.

Pence's Hall ended its days as a feed store and hatchery, and was demolished as part of the city's Urban Redevelopment program. Ghosts of former seances must have fled to other places when the brick dust began to settle, but believers of Spiritualism and allied cults still flourish in the local area.

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Thumbnail sketches drawn of Vigo County pioneers

Ts JAN 2 1 1979

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Today's column will include thumbnail sketches of some of Vigo County's pioneers.

JAMES HOOK was born in Pennsylvania, July 8, 1815. In 1837, he came to Terre Haute and became a contractor and builder until 1853, the year the movement began to start the common schools in this city. As trustee, Hook worked hard to overcome opposition and was rewarded for his efforts by having the Hook School named for him. In 1855, he was elected mayor of Terre Haute, and in 1858, the first school was opened and showed citizens a graded school system.

HERMAN HULMAN was born in Lingen, Hanover, Germany in 1831. He came to Terre Haute and started a grocery and tobacco business with his brother. He and R. S. Cox formed a partnership and bought McGregor & Company's distillery. By 1869, they were doing the heaviest wholesale grocery and liquor business in the state.

An active supporter of the Nail Works, the Blast Furnace, and the Rolling Mill, his aim was to build up Terre Haute as a commercial center. He favored the extension of railroads and was instrumental in transferring stock of the Gas Company owned by eastern men to local citizens.

WILLIAM A. JONES was born in Connecticut in 1830. In 1870, he became president of Indiana State Normal School, and opened the institution with 23 students on Jan. 6, 1870.

WILLIAM NAYLOR was born in Virginia in 1791. In 1811, he helped erect Fort Harrison, and served as a soldier under General William Henry Harrison in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Naylor built many miles of the National Road. In 1844, he came to Terre Haute and helped build the County Seminary Building, which occupied the site where Indiana State University now stands. He died in 1858.

DAVID S. DANALDSON was born in 1809. He came to Terre Haute in 1835 and engaged in the dry goods business. In 1845, he bought the "Wabash Express" printing establishment and was editor and proprietor until 1853.

One of the self-made men of Terre Haute, he started the first daily newspaper printed in Terre Haute (May, 1851) during his editorial life.

COL. RICHARD W. THOMPSON was born in 1809 in Virginia and came to Terre Haute in 1843 to engage in the practice of law. He acquired a national reputation as a member of the Indiana legislature, member of Congress, and Secretary of the Navy in President Hayes' cabinet.

During the Civil War he was commandant of Camp Dick Thompson, near Terre Haute, and also served as provost marshall of the district.

JAMES M. SANKEY, farmer, was born in Vigo county, July 26, 1836. In 1870, he was elected treasurer of Vigo county. He taught school in the winter and farmed in the summer. As a result of his energy and industry, he accumulated over 800 acres of farm land in and around Vigo county.

J. H. O'BOYLE, dealer in leather and shoe findings, came to Terre Haute in 1850. At the age of eleven, he was bound to a gentleman in Virginia to learn the trade of tanner, and did not have the opportunity to go to school. He began his successful business career in Terre Haute in 1857.

COL. R.N. HUDSON came to Terre Haute in 1840. In 1856, he purchased the Terre Haute daily and weekly "Express" and edited it until the close of the campaign which elected President Lincoln. He was commissioned a colonel in the cavalry in the Civil War and came to Terre Haute to organize the 133rd Indiana Infantry and commanded it during the war.

He started the Terre Haute daily and weekly "Gazette" and bought the Terre Haute "Journal" and conducted it until 1873, when he retired from journalism.

AMORY KINNEY was born in Vermont in 1791. He came to Terre Haute in 1826, and in 1830 represented Vigo county in the Indiana legislature. He helped to revise the Indiana statutes in 1831 and later became head of the law firm of Kinney, Wright & Gookins.

SAMUEL BARNES GOOKINS was born in Vermont in 1809. He came to Fort Harrison and Terre Haute in 1821 from New York by the northern route. He and his party took passage at Sackett's Harbor on the steamboat, "Ontario."

They landed at Lewiston, thence around Niagara Falls by wagon, then to Buffalo by open boat, to Detroit by schooner, to Fort Meigs at the head of the Maumee by another schooner, to Fort Wayne by canoe, across the portage drawing their canoes by oxen to Little River, down that river to the Wabash, and down the Wabash to Fort Harrison and Terre Haute, making the trip in six weeks and two days.

In 1827, he took the position of editor of the "Western Register," later becoming a lawyer. He died in Terre Haute, June 14, 1880.

W. B. WARREN, a native of New York, came to Terre Haute in 1820. In 1850, he began packing pork and became interested in the dry goods business. Later he became president of the Gas Company. Although he had only elementary schooling in his lifetime, he was recognized as one of the wealthy pioneer citizens.

L. A. BURNETT, dealer in shoe findings, was one of the old settlers of Vigo county. Born in 1818, he came here with his family from New York in a canoe up the Maumee River and down the Wabash, arriving in Terre Haute, June 20, 1821. In 1854, he was elected sheriff of Vigo county. In 1868, he was appointed postmaster of Terre Haute.

CHARLES CRUFT was born in Terre Haute in 1831 and died here 1883. He entered the Civil War in 1861 as a colonel in the 31st Indiana Volunteers and was soon promoted to brigadier-general.

As a lawyer and member of the firm of Baird and Cruft, he gained state-wide reputation for ability and success. As a bachelor, he lived for many years with his two sisters and brothers at Sixth and Oak Streets.

JOHN D. CHESTNUT was born in

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manufacture of bricks. Like so many bachelors, he lived for many years at the Terre Haute House before his death in 1905.

COL. W.K. EDWARDS was born in Kentucky in 1820 and came to Vigo county in 1843. Four times he was elected to the state legislature and was considered the best parliamentarian in Indiana. He served as mayor of Terre Haute.

WILLIAM C. BALL was born in 1846 and died in 1922. He was a teacher, editor, head of the Board of Charities, the Red Cross and Rose Polytechnic Institute. He was brought up on a farm, attended local schools, Indiana University, and was graduated at the head of his class at Amherst College. He never married.

Next week's column will continue the thumbnail sketches of local pioneer citizens.

More thumbnail sketches of Vigo County pioneers

Historically Speaking

Ts JAN 2 8 1979

By Dorothy Clark

Last week's column offered thumbnail sketches of some of the more prominent early settlers of Terre Haute and Vigo County. The listing will be continued today.

JOHN H. BERRY came here in the early 1860s from New York and died here in the 1890s. Associated with Frank Gulick in the drug business, he also was in the wholesale notions trade with Charles Braman.

JOSEPHUS COLLETT was born in 1831 in Vermillion County. He came to Terre Haute in the 1860s to construct and operate the Evansville, Terre Haute and Chicago Railroad. He gave Collett Park to the city. As one of Chauncey Rose's administrators, he also bequeathed $75,000 to Rose Polytechnic Institute.

JOHN CRAWFORD was born in Ireland in 1801, and came to Vigo County at an early date. He died in 1857. With his brother, Samuel Crawford, he conducted a merchandise store. His brother, Samuel, was the first president of the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad.

CHAUNCEY ROSE was born in Connecticut in 1794, and came to Vigo County in 1818. Becoming Terre Haute's most prominent merchant as early as 1824, Rose accumulated a vast fortune from all his many business interests and land holdings.

Before his death in 1877, Chauncey Rose, a wealthy man whose vast inheritance from his brother multiplied his accumulation, had the serious problem of how to wisely dispose of it. He remarked to a friend: "Other people have trouble to make money, but my trouble is how to dispose of it."

HORACE B. JONES was born in Harrisburg in 1840, and died here in 1890. He was in the implement business with his brother. He stu- law and was associated with Judge John F. Scott.

WILLIAM G. JENCKES was born in 1837 east of the city and died at his farm in Honey Creek Township in 1899. Mr. Jenckes was a farmer and bachelor.

WILLIAM S RONEYcame to Terre Haute from Pennsylvania as auditor of the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad early in the 1870s.

FIRMAN NIPPERT was born in France and came to Terre Haute in 1844. He and his brother, August Nippert, operated a general merchandising store, called the "French Store." He was president of the Gas Company, and for 30 years was president of the Terre Haute Iron and Nail Works.

OLD MR. ST. CLAIR, at the Old Settlers' Association meeting in 1875, was one of the pioneers called on to tell something about early life here. He told how he came here in 1818 from Kentucky, stopping at a point four miles below the place of Morrison's Defeat.

From there he moved to Buck Creek, where there were thirty Indian camps in the neighborhood. The Indians were friendly except when he and an Indian brave once shot the same deer. He was 82 years old at that time, making his birth year as 1793.

SILVESTER SIBLEY, who arrived on the Wabash river in 1805, enjoyed telling of his first meal here on opossum, and how he was cured of the fever and ague by laughing induced by riding in a French cart. That must have been a local joke understood only by those who lived through the experience.

WILLIAM ELDRIDGE described his early life, his parents and the unusual relations his uncles had gotten into by marrying cousins. He told of the settlement on Curry's prairie, the old camps and tents, the difficulty in geting houses built, the scarcity of money, and the need for prudence and hard work when life was a hard row to hoe.

SAMUEL CRAWFORD came to Terre Haute in 1828, at the aqe of 25, and died in 1857. Born in Ulster, Ireland, on the banks of Lough Neagh, the largest lake in Great Britain, Samuel followed an older brother, John, to Terre Haute. They were in business as J. & S. Crawford, and died not many months apart.

Samuel was married in 1831 to a daughter of Francis Cunningham, an early inn-keeper and postmaster of Terre Haute. When Terre Haute was incorporated as a town in 1832, Samuel was appointed treasurer by the town trustees and was afterwards elected to the same office.

When every able-bodied man was expected to be a volunteer fireman, Crawford became captain of the first fire company when the town bought its first fire engine in 1832 and organized fire companies.

Assisting him were Jacob D. Early, Thomas Parsons, Joseph O. Jones, D. S. Danaldson, James Farrington, Thomas Dowling and Alexander McGregor.

In the hook and ladder company, John Crawford was a ladderman, Zenas Smith, a ropeman, and T. A. Madison, the foreman. In the company of fire guards were Demas Deming as captain and Chauncey Rose as fourth assistant.

Samuel Crawford's son was Major Frank Crawford, paymaster of the Vandalia Railroad. His son-in-law, W. R. McKeen, became president of the Vandalia, and his grandson, S. C. McKeen, carried on the name of this urbane and elegant gentleman.

At the 1875 meeting, all those who had been in Fort Harrison for protection, or were there after the battle were invited to stand. B. Richardson and several ladies, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Wedding stood up.

Mr. Richardson described the Indian alarm, how they were encamped opposite the fort waiting for their annuities. The men had gone to Vincennes and left the women and children unprotected.

Suspecting they were to be cheated, the Indians were plotting revenge. During the night, the Indian traders awoke the settlers in the houses outside the fort, including Richardson, when they discovered the campfires of the Indians across the river had been put out, and their dogs were howling.

The Indians danced the war dance and came over, but, on seeing what the people in the fort had prepared for them, they made no demonstration and left after stealing several horses and other articles from the houses outside.

A short time afterward, the annuities arrived, and peace was sealed with the red men.

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Yarns of yesteryear homespun by Henry Housman

History (T.H)

Historically Speaking

Ts JUL 22

By Dorothy Clark

Ts JUL 22 1979

The late Henry Housman had plenty of time to tell his stories following his retirement as a local printer. Born in 1875 in Terre Haute, Henry could recall seeing the lamp lighter making his twice daily rounds, caring for the kerosene lamps which lighted the intersections of several Terre Haute streets.

"He was a little feller," he recalled, "who came along mornings with his ladder, can of kerosene and a pair of shears to clean the lamp, fill the oil font, and trim the wick. He returned evenings and lighted the wicks with a sulphur match and adjusted the flame." According to Housman, the illumination from these lamps was none too bright, and on stormy nights "cast but a fitful glow."

Gas lights came next and were much better Then carbon arc lights replaced the gas burners. In spite of a lot of sputtering and cracking, the light from these lamps was considered good. If they were still in use today, however, radio and television reception would be completely ruined by their electrical interference.

These lights attracted swarms of large beetles with a wing-spread of three or four inches. They also possessed a stinger and had to be handled carefully.

Every night when the lights came on, these swarms would arrive, circling around the sputtering carbon. When they became singed, they would fall to the ground, and each morning there would be a deep layer of them to provide a feast for toads and the larger birds including barnyard fowls straying from home grounds in search of these delicacies.

According to Housman, these bugs were called "electric bugs" and stayed here about three summers before they disappeared, never to return. Possibly they "burned themselves out."

Ringgold Band

An employee of Hebb's Printing Shop in his younger days, Housman recalled that it was a gathering place for members of the Ringgold Band. Charley Pugh, George Weldele, Ab Pugh, Gus Werneke and Charley Warner all played with the band. They had the privilege of taking time off to play for a funeral.

Local fraternal orders, on the death of a member, gave the widow her choice of $50 or the band — to have the funeral cortege preceded by a band on the way to the cemetery was something to remember. Each member of the band received two dollars, with double for the leader, and arrangements were always decided on when they met at Hebb's.

A small boy remembers many strange and wonderful things about his home town as he grows older. Where Schultz is now, northeast corner of Fourth and Wabash, was the Naylor Opera House. The gallery was a boy's Heaven, where they chewed tobacco and whooped and jeered to their hearts' content, regardless of the hapless policeman stationed there to keep order.

At Fourth and Main streets, medicine shows held forth almost nightly. There would be a banana or an orange peddler on every corner Saturday nights, and competition was keen. Large ripe bananas sold two for a nickel. The hot dog vendor was always waiting for the show crowd to come out. Hot dogs, with mustard or chili sauce, sold for a nickel.

Sages's Cafe, later the Olympic, was one of the best eating places in Terre Haute. They sold delicious confections including ice cream made on the premises. A large wedge of fresh peach pie garnished with a wedge of yellow cheese was only a nickel. Big sugary doughnuts were two for a nickel.

Bear killers

Loeb's Hat and Fur Emporium near Fifth Street, was represented by a huge black bear mounted on a wheeled dolly which was placed in front of the store each morning. According to Housman, that old bear's straw-filled carcass bore the marks of many a stabbing administered by youthful Daniel Boones. If the store keeper could run fast enough, the young bear-killer would get his pants kicked.

Biel's Tobacco Store exhibited the carved wooden figure of Punch (of Punch and Judy fame and now in the Historical Museum). Rottman's, Seaman's and other cigar and tobacco shops displayed the more conventional wooden injuns.

If you wanted a pair of shoes, the clerk would pull out the drawer under the glass counter and hand out a pair. Children's shoes were made on a universal last — no right or left. They were worn one way for a week, then swapped for the next to keep the heels straight. They became hard and wrinkled during the winter season.

The omnibuses and horses of the Herdic line were stabled in a grove between Osborne and Hulman streets on South Third Street. These barns acquired an unsavory reputation before they were torn down.

After the electric street cars came into use, Herman Hulman Sr. acquired the property and had it fenced with tight boards eight feet high. He turned the area into an amusement park for the public's benefit and, also, to make Sunday and evening business for the street car system. The park was well patronized with entertainment provided by medicine shows, freak exhibitions, band concerts, cowboy and Indian shows, etc. Admission was 10 cents.

Horse-pulling contests

The modern horse-pulling contests held at the county fairgrounds always reminded Housman of the show put on by Pilot Rock Tom, a mountain of a man, who defied the efforts of four big horses to pull him loose from a heavy wooden frame contraption to which he was strapped. He was never "worsted." This strong man was the big attraction of a show promoted by Blue Mountain Joe, who affected loud, showy clothes, a big watch chain, and ten dollar gold pieces for buttons.

The Fourth of July civic celebrations held at this park attracted large crowds for the carnival and fireworks display at night. On one occasion, just before the display started, a violent rain storm came up and, in some manner, the stock of fireworks became ignited and the entire lot went off with a bang. Some serious casualities occured in the crowd of people, and considerable property damage was caused in the nearby neighborhood by the huge rockets and whirling fire wheels. Fireworks were really dangerous in those days, but the big profit of as much as 400 percent made the risk more tolerable to the seller.

In the 1880s, local residents were pestered by house-to-house peddlers selling books, sewing machines, mantel clocks, brooms, clothes wringers, fly brushes, zithers, lightning rods, tombstones, and tinware.

Mr. Rothschild, the tin peddler, would stop his big white horse and little wagon jingling with its assortment of pots and pans. He would take bones, iron, rags or money for these shiny items.

Whatever happened to the scissors grinders and umbrella repairmen?

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An affectionate review of some 'town characters'

Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

THE SEP 16 1979

By Dorothy Clark

Over the years, Terre Haute has had more than its share of "town characters." These colorful characters who were part of the daily passing parade, came to public attention sometimes because of a drinking problem, or other family problem, and sometimes just because they marched to a different drummer's beat not heard by the ordinary citizens.

For 50 years, Wesley Weathers, a diminutive peddler, was a character about town. Wesley was Terre Haute's smallest citizen, only four feet tall, but otherwise normally developed.

Born in 1840 in Livingston, Ill., in Clark County, he was the son of Thomas T. Weathers and Margaret (Crockett) Weathers. His mother was a sister of Davy Crockett, pioneer Indian fighter.

A true son of nature, Wesley was the first peddler about in the springtime with the aromatic sassafras. Keen on Wabash River lore, his memory ran back to the days when the packet boats plied the river, and he was considered no less an authority than Mark Twain on matters of side and stern-wheelers and the pilot house.

Too, Wesley knew when the first channel catfish came up the river in the spring, and where the fish were running and where minnows abounded most populously.

Between sassafras and maple sugar season in the spring and fagot days in the fall, Wesley dealt with the cost of living problem by doling out lamp wicks and shoes strings in the downtown business district. He was one of the most persistent salesmen in the merchandising world around Fourh and Main streets, when that intersection was the trading center of the town.

Here Wesley set up in competition with the medicine men and the reversible collar button men and plied his trade and established quite a regular custom.

Wesley had many friends. His dwarfish figure did not interfere with his commercial ambitions, and he did a thriving peddling business.

Past the age of 70, Wesley gave up the fight and retired to the County Poor Farm. In March, 1912, he remarked to Superintendent A. D. Weeks that "tommorow is the 13th, and it's always been unlucky for me. I'm afraid I'll pass over." He did the next morning.

Irish character

One of the obstacles local citizens had to contend with 70 years ago on downtown sidewalks and streets, was Bernard "Barney" King. On more than one occasion, people passing along Fourth Street were forced to jump over Barney who was passed out drunk across the sidewalk.

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Barney was born in Ireland in 1873 and came to America in 1898. Because of an injury to his foot, his ability to work on many laboring jobs was hampered, and he frequently became "down and out" and would appeal to the police for a bed at the jail. A frequent offender in the drunk and disorderly department, he was awarded an 11-day job on the rock pile by the court on one occasion.

Described in the county poor farm's records as a "rheumatic laborer with crushed foot" when he was first admitted in 1907, the last notation in 1916 shows he went to work on the C.& E.I. Railroad.

Arrest record

Probably arrested more times for intoxication than anyone in Terre Haute twice his age was William Snooks, 26 years old. Described as a one-legged veteran born in 1893, Snooks told Gerdink in 1909 that he was going to sign the pledge and go up river and become a fisherman. He even promised to bring in some fish to prove it. The record is not clear what happened to the alcoholic in the intervening years, but he died old and destitute at the county poor farm.

Shoe-string peddler

No one who ever heeded the appeal of the old shoe-string peddler near the entrance of the United States Trust Building in the early 1900s would ever have imagined that he had once been a man of wealth and prominence.

Asa P. Moorman, was born in Detroit in 1840. At the age of 21 years, he went to Philadelphia and enlisted in the Civil War under the name of Henry James. Soon after the assassination of Lincoln, he deserted with a number of others waiting to be mustered out.

While stepping from one car to another on the train trip home, he

slipped and fell under the car which cut off one leg. Upon his recovery he engaged in the lumber business at Detroit, married and lived in Michigan for several years. He inherited some property from his father, but kept losing small sums in speculation. In 1898 he came to Terre Haute and his wife ran a boarding house on Third Street to keep him in money to travel around until his health failed. Until his death in 1909, he sat in a chair at the bank location and sold shoe-strings, and his wife, the long-suffering Mary Jane, continued to support herself as a shoe-string vendor.

Opium den

William "Uncle Bill" Call told of a notorius opium den located above the "Old Homestead Saloon", 208 N. Second St., in the "Tenderloin District."

According to a letter I found, Call stated, "I will be 81 years old, and I don't believe I have much longer to stay here ... before I go I want to tell the public about the worst dive that ever existed, in which my son, Otto, is engaged with a number of others."

"It is an opium den of the worst kind, and all day long and every night many men and women assemble on the second floor of the building, smoke their pipes of joy and eat the deadly drug until they fall over on the floor helpless. It is a horrible thing, and no one knows how many men and women are lured to the place and after being filled up on the drug are relieved of their money by the opium users."

"A one-armed fellow," he continued, "who is arrested about every week or so by the police for being drunk, is the messenger for the opium smokers or drug eaters, and every time they get as much as a ten-cent piece he is sent to the drug stores on Wabash Avenue where they sell this poison in open violation of the federal laws. This is kept up day and night, and I can not see why the police do not stop it ... I have seen naked men and women insane from the use of the deadly drug lying like dead on the floor for three days and three nights — the men and women huddled together in the corners of the room with the pipes in their mouths smoking the poison."

Since his birth in 1832, Mr. Call had seen more than his share of trouble. His daughter killed herself in a West End resort. One son took poison in this city, another son killed himself in Petersburg, Ind., and another son was killed by a train near Frankfort, Ind., while working for the Cloverleaf Railroad. His oldest son, a cook at a hotel on North Ninth Street, died, and this left the only one of his eight children" who was the cook and bouncer at the saloon with the upstairs "opium den." Mr. Call died at the county poor farm in 1914.

Pitman Noblitt

Living history from Rockville's Phila

+ Biography No-

Historically Speaking

Ts MAR 9 1980

By Dorothy Clark

For the past several years, Phila Pitman Noblitt of Rockville has been writing stories for her grandchildren of her early memories in the Montezuma, Clinton and Rockville area.

A proud native Hoosier, Mrs. Noblitt was born on her grandfather's farm west of Rockville in 1898. Some of her earliest memories are of Smokey Row, home of the Marion Brick Works located east of Montezuma. Her father, Ben Pitman, was an engineer there, and the family lived close by nearly four years, 1900-04.

Their house was on a hill, and the Chicago, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad or C.H. & D., called by the natives "the Can't Hug and Drive") ran in a gully or deep hollow behind the property.

Some of the families living in Smokey Row at that time were the Gaithers, Clista, Oliver and Cletis; the Smith Hann family, Maud, Dulcie and David; Mr. and Mrs. "Coon" Farner and their children, Cliff, Carl and Carrie; the Kellers, Phillips, Wrights, Albert Miles, her uncle and aunt, Fred and Stella Pitman and cousin Ben.

Pat Conner and his son Wilmont ran the plant and lived in Montezuma. Two workers she remembered were "Dad" Shelby and Sam Bryant.

The "Dry Pan" was the big crushing machine which pulverized the lumps of clay. Bricks and tiles were fired in the big kilns. The children enjoyed watching the many steps used to make tile or brick, and would "hang around" the engine room and boiler room where her Uncle Fred fired the boilers with coal to make steam to run the engines.

Down the hill from Smokey Row was Leatherwood Creek, and over this creek was Melcher Covered Bridge built in 1896, a favorite place for children to play.

Mrs. Noblitt remembers how they would climb up the side where the big wooden arches were and slide down till they got a splinter in their "sliders."

Since it was a long time between travelers using the bridge, little Phila and her friend Dulcie Hann decided to wash doll clothes and hang them on a clothes line stretched across the bridge. Unfortunately a lady in her horse and buggy came along and the fluttering clothesline scared the horse causing a runaway. Stripes on their legs from a willow switch got the message across about blocking the bridge.

Banished from the bridge for one month as further punishment, the children decided to explore the creek and found a deep pool with oversize fish. This became a favorite spot until parents found out about it and put this dangerous place off-limits.

Down Strawberry Road

When Mrs. Noblitt was past five years old, the Pitmans moved down Strawberry Road into a nicer house. She remembers Effie and John Collins, a black couple from "down south," who lived in a nearby house in the woods. Effie could tell stories

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about her slave ancestors and how she picked cotton as a tiny girl.

When Phila and her two brothers went to tell Effie and John goodbye before moving to town, it was almost sundown. Effie said, "Now kids, let's watch the sun go down, and you can always remember you saw the sun go down on Dec. 31, 1904." So they watched till it disappeared and never forgot.

Another never-to-be-forgotten incident was the new automobile of Superintendent Pat Conner. Her mother tried to explain a gasoline engine, and, according to Mrs. Noblitt, "We kids went out in the road where the tire tracks were and smelled the tracks to see what gasoline smelled like! Where ignorance is bliss, it's folly to be wise."

When the tile plant first located there, it was called Klondike, but by 1900 was known as Smokey Row. Mrs. Noblitt was still trying to find out why.

She remembers the gypsy camp near Smokey Row across the creek where there was a good spring. The gypsy women canvassed the houses in the area telling fortunes in exchange for food.

Pack peddlers, huckster wagons, and once in a while medicine wagons were thrills for the small communities. Tent shows came through offering "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "East Lynne," "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," and other tear-jerkers. These were in Montezuma, a few miles down the road from Smokey Row.

Strawberry Road was the most direct route from Montezuma to Rockville. A pipe brought spring water from the hillside to a watering trough where people and horses stopped to refresh themslelves not far from the covered bridge.

Some 30 years after "those days," Phila and her husband, Homer Noblitt, a railroad pullman conductor (his death occurred in 1969), returned to Parke County from Chicago and rented a house only a short walk from that old trough. Mrs. Noblitt would pick greens, look for mushrooms, and sit on the hillside dreaming of the times spent there as a little girl.

In 1977 she revisited the area. Where there used to be cinders on the old tile and brick yard, and rows of houses facing each other across a cinder street, were several small homes with nice lawns. All that remains of the old Marion Brick Works (Smokey Row) are a few brick foundations.

Mrs. Noblitt has traveled thousands of miles over the United States, Canada, Mexico and South America, first with her father and then with her husband. For 32 years she has been in the antiques business, and is fascinated with all mechanical items like clocks and music boxes which she can keep in good running order. Above all she cherishes her memories of "the good old days."

and druv the bear

History (Vigo Co) &

'Old Tom Pucket . . . fit the injuns

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts MAR 23 1980

One of the most amusing stories of Vigo County's pioneers is the one about old Tom Pucket, "the man what fit the Injuns and druv the bear."

He came to Vigo County in 1816, and many of the old settlers and their descendants confirmed the story that he actually did drive the bear into town. They insisted that it was not a tall tale but a true story.

It seems that Pucket was hunting bear one day about 20 miles south of Terre Haute. He had been hunting stray cows the day before and started up a bear. Having no gun with him, he went home to get his rifle and returned to kill it.

If he had made any positive arrangement with the animal, it forfeited all claim to integrity by running away before he got back to the trysting place. This provoked Pucket, and the next day he started out on a serious bear hunt.

He finally came across one lying on the sunny side of a hill sound asleep. He got close enough to examine it and was amazed at its size. He reflected that if he killed it where it was, he could not possibly get it home. In fact, it was doubtful if he could even carry the hide that far.

Being a man of quick conclusions and having the courage of his conviction, he approached the sleeping monster and woke him up with some general observations about the weather. The bear raised his head, yawned widely, winked at him, licked his tongue out in a friendly way, and laid his massive head down for another snooze.

In a stern bass voice, Pucket ordered bruin to get up and head for town, backing up his order with a punch in the muzzle with his gun butt. The bear got to his feet, but was either perverse or didn't know the way to Terre Haute, starting off in a graceful fat-bear waddle toward Vincennes.

Pucket headed him off and turned him around, but there was much zigzagging on the way although the general direction was about right. The animal traveled nearer 40 miles instead of the 20 if he had gone as the crow flies. The result was that within seven or eight miles of town, the bear laid down for the last time, and no efforts to budge him prevailed.

Angered with the bear's lack of cooperation, Pucket ruthlessly shot and skinned him, and the immense hide was seen by nearly every one of the settlers in Vigo County as a confirmation of the incredible story. There are no fossil remains now left of this "bar story" except the country over which he drove it, and most of this is fenced up or paved over.

The reader must draw his own moral from the bear story, because Tom Pucket was a harmless, inoffensive man, a rough carpenter who

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could build round-log houses with dirt floors that were a credit to the guild of contractors and builders.

Sure, he had his little odd ways, and sometimes they might even be called eccentricities, yet they were a necessary part of the man known as Tom Pucket.

He has long since gone where they neither drive bears, nor are driven by them. He died intestate, much in the same way he lived out his days. "Old Tom" Pucket, as everyone called him, died in 1867 at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Thomas Parsons, in Douglas County, Ill.

As early as 1839 it got too thickly settled on the Wabash for Tom, so he emigrated to Texas and became a cowboy. Texas was then a Republic, and the old Vigo bear driver was out of the United States for a short period of his life. He "fit" Mexicans, and when Texas became a state, he engaged in driving Texas cattle to the north.

Finally, when very old, he came north on another cattle drive, but the hardships were too much for him, and he was stricken with his first and last sickness.

Brothers of Tom Pucket included Isom, Lewis, Richard, Elisha and David. There are many descendants of this early Vigo County pioneer family scattered all over the U.S. A few are still located here in the Wabash Valley. Tradition has it that the father of this man was a Revolutionary War soldier.

Ts JUN 1 1980

Biographies reveal history

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Interesting biographical sketches of local residents or members of their families reveal much local history, valuable information which helps piece together the stories of how it was before our time.

The late Charles Newport was born in 1880 in Clay County, Ind., nine miles south of Brazil. He was the third of six children of Richard and Emily Caroline (Bryant) Newport.

His father was ill some three years before his death in 1891, and the family suffered many hardships. Though only a child, Charles, was "hired out" to the neighbors to drive a horse and feed a cane mill.

Sent To Terre Haute

Soon after his father's death, Newport was sent to Terre Haute to work for Fred Wunker Sr. on a dairy farm located where the Phoenix Club is now. The residence was called "Four Mile House" because it was four miles from Terre Haute. His first job was milking three cows, but soon he was milking 17 cows.

The trip by train from Cory to Terre Haute was full of dread and fear for a small boy. His school days were over at the end of the fourth grade. Wunker met him at the depot and they went to the Filbeck Hotel, a small hotel at the northeast corner of Fifth and Cherry streets, where Wunker had left his horses and milk wagon in the wagon yard in the rear. Newport's pay was 50 cents per day, with room and board and washing included.

Downtown in Nineties

Some of the prominent stores along Wabash Avenue, as Newport remembered them, were Pixley's General Store, S. L. Fenner Hardware at Twelfth and Wabash, Lawrence Hickey Grocery at the same location, and the Havens & Geddes Dry Goods Store.

Horses and wagons or buggies were the main transportation. Newport had one ride on the mule-pulled car to Blake's Hill and back again to town. John Hiatt was the driver. When one goes to work long before daylight and works long after daylight, there is little time for amusement.

Newport did have a horse of his own later on. He took great pride in the animal, washing, currying and braiding the mane and tail. The day Teddy Roosevelt was in town with his Rough Riders, Charley rode a pure white horse in the parade. Later he and two other riders tied their horses at Eighth and Wabash, where they were all stolen. It was three days before they were returned.

Salary $15 a month

Newport was allowed time off to go home for a short visit and walked the 17 miles. At age 15 he started working for the George Klatte Sr. Dairy, whose farm was located where Deming Park is now. The cattle barn stood where the duck pond is now.

Here his pay was $15 a month, and later raised to $35. From the first he sent most of his pay home to his mother, who had very little income of any kind.

Eight years later Newport was able to buy out Mr. Klatte and continued in the dairy business until Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918, when he sold his business to the Terre Haute Pure Milk Company.

In the early days, whenever he could take time away from his work, Newport enjoyed going to the foot of Walnut Street and watching the black men unload corn for the hominy mills off the steamboats that had come up and down the Wabash River. Their muscular abilities held a great attraction for the young lad.

NOTE: The writer would appreciate hearing from anyone in Terre Haute, Vigo County or the Wabash Valley, who has some interesting recollections or experiences, or knows of someone who does. Surely there are old family papers, diaries, letters, journals still in existence that would help reveal much more local history. Contact: Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, 2032 N. 8th St., Terre Haute, IN 47804.

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts NOV 2 3 1980

Early settlers—more thumbnail sketches

Thumbnail sketches of early settlers, former residents and the movers and doers of our community have proved to be so popular with readers that I've found four more — an interurban conductor, an antique collector, an early railroader and a veteran of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

J. Harve Thompson, veteran conductor of the old Sullivan interurban line of the Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern Traction Company, spent his retirement years in Sullivan, Ind.

Service on the line began on the Fourth of July, 1906. Harve began his term of service in 1907, making five round trips per shift, seven days a week. The first crew included Ora Champ, a graduate of Union Christian College at Merom, and Lloyd Pigg, the son of Will Rans Pigg, both of Cass.

For some years, Shelburn was a boom town and "wet," while Sullivan was "dry," so hundreds of citizens made nightly trips to Shelburn to quench their thirst. The last returning car to Sullivan was the midnight car, and sometimes it was necessary to call for an additional car to haul the crowd back to Sullivan.

Harve listed William J. Bryan, Billy Sunday, Carrie Nation, Gov. Marshall, Joe Cannon, Senator Kern and Jack Dillon, the prizefighter, among the celebrities he had met. Bryan used his portable typewriter to work on his Merom Chautauqua address. Carrie Nation complained of the cigar and cigarette smoke coming from the smoking compartment.

During the Easter tornado of 1913, Harve had to spend a week-long vigil in the interurban car until help could arrive and remove debris from the track.

M. M. Nash was the first superintendent of the company, and the first Sullivan ticket agent was Jimmie Dudley. His widow, Cora Dudley, lived in Terre Haute for many years with her daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Gambill.

Zebulon Haberlin, owner of the Old Curiosity Shop and one of the oldest and best known citizens of Terre Haute when he died in 1903, was born in Jennings County, Ind. He came to Terre Haute in 1878, and worked as a carpenter contractor. About 1887 he rented the old State Bank Building (built 1834 and now known as Memorial Hall) on Ohio Street from the Kussner heirs.

From that time until his death, he occupied the building with a storage and commission business. All his life Haberlin had a mania for collecting old relics and curios, and soon his collection attracted the attention of many people who gave the building its name. He placed a sign on the building and for 16 years the historic old bank, Terre Haute's oldest business building, was known as the Old Curiosity Shop.

Among the rare curios found in the building was a violin over a hundred years old, manufactured by Josef Garnerius of Cremo, Italy. After Haberlin's funeral, proper disposition of his collection was of great interest to the community.

Billy Baugh, early railroader, was born in 1818 in Virginia. In 1829 the family moved to Madison, Ind., where Billy became a steamboatman. He served as cabin boy, pilot and engineer until 1844 when he became a fireman on the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, under the eye of George Ramsey, engineer, and Samuel Thomas, master mechanic. Baugh fired an engine for nine months, when he was promoted to "right hand side" and then became a "runner."

In 1849, he quit the M.&I. and hired on the little Shelbyville and Knightstown Railroad, where C. R. Peddle was running the engine. Baugh had known Peddle since Peddle was engineer on the M.&I. Four months later he again met Peddle who had been employed by Chauncey Rose as master mechanic of the new Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad.

Peddle hired Baugh to run the locomotive "Clay" on its first run out of Indianapolis May 1, 1851, even before the road was completed between Terre Haute and Indianapolis. It was completed in February, 1852, and the two ends of the road were joined together about 1½ miles east of Greencastle.

The first train went through from Indianapolis to Terre Haute on March 1, 1852, and Baugh, in charge of the Clay, had the distinguished honor of making the first run over the road. He ran continuously between the two cities until the fall of 1871, when he was 53 years of age, and went to work in the railroad shops, subsequently taking a job in the roundhouse doing engine repair.

At the age of 75, "Uncle Billy" was retired on full pay by Pres. W. R. McKeen of the Vandalia system. A member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Indianapolis, he became a charter member of Division No. 25 in Terre Haute.

W. B. Alexander, a veteran of the Confederate Army, celebrated his 70th birthday and his 47th wedding anniversary in 1895 at his home 2½ miles out on the Lockport Road,

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which he had built with his own hands 25 years earlier.

Alexander was born in 1825 in east Tennessee, six miles from Knoxville, between the Holstein and French Broad rivers. When he was eight years old, his father died, and he soon was doing the work of a hired hand. He remained on the farm until he was 19 years old, when he went to Taswell to learn the carpenter's trade. After serving a two-year apprenticeship and working two years for himself, he married Louisa Hodges in 1847. Two years later, he went back to his native county and took up farming until the outbreak of the Civil War. He was conscripted into the Confederate Army and fought in the battles at Tullahoma and Murfreesborough with Bragg's army. After this defeat he spent the winter at Shelbyville, and was transferred to a battery in East Tennessee.

While in the artillery, Alexander acted as courier and quartermaster until the march to Knoxville. Here Longstreet retreated, and Alexander, his brother and cousin were captured and took the oath of allegiance to the United States in November, 1863.

The following year he raised a crop, but Tennessee was suffering from the devastations of war and hearing of plenty of work and plenty to eat in Indiana, he arrived here in March, 1865.

The Alexanders had eight living children: Margaret, wife of Benjamin Rogers; Mary, wife of John Egnew; Frank, of St. Louis; Harriet, wife of Turner Leggett; and Minnie, Emma and Ella, at home in 1895.

In that year, Alexander was farming alone five acres he owned and 30 more he rented. He raised 800 bushels of sweet potatoes, 10 acres of corn, 70 bushels of popcorn, and several acres of small fruit, besides a fine orchard. His neighbors enjoyed hearing him speak "Tennessee" as a true southerner. He accented the first syllable, while the northerner drawls out the double "e."

son

Jerry Mugivan: A colorful Terre Haute

Ts APR 12 1981

historically speaking

By DOROTHY CLARK

Jerry Mugivan was one of the most colorful of Terre Haute's famous sons. Many old time circus fans admired this truly great showman.

The Mugivan family came to Terre Haute from Knightsville, Ind. They lived at 107 S. 11th St. Jeremiah Sr. was a blacksmith in the old Vandalia shops.

Jerry, one of six children, attended St. Patrick's Parochial School until he was 15 years old. He quit school to become a newsboy.

His interest in the circus began in 1896 when he "joined out" with a small circus. Having a positive genius for finance and amazing organizational ability, he learned the circus business thoroughly.

In 1904 the young hustling showman heard of some circus equipment for sale in Kansas City, Mo., that could be had for a reasonable figure. He and his friend, Bert Bowers, made the trip to inspect the property which they bought and put the 10-car show into shape to open the season in Missouri.

Billed as the "Great Van Amburg Show" this was the first circus venture of these partners whose names were to become famous in circus history.

Circus Changes

In the next few years, there were many changes in the titles of the shows and much buyng up of other circuses by Mugivan and Bowers. by 1914, the show was enlarged to 20 cars. In 1916, the partners bought the John Robinson Shows, the largest show they ever put on the road—at least 40 cars.

Because of World War I conditions, the train was often side-tracked for war priorities. This sometimes resulted in late arrivals, late parades and late afternoon shows. For the 1918 season, the John Robinson Circus was reduced to 30 cars.

Hagenback and Wallace

In December, 1918, they purchased the Hagenback-Wallace Show and put the Howes Great London Show back on the road again. Between 1920 and 1929 they acquired the Sells-Floto Circus, the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, the Sparks Circus, the Al G. Barnes Trained Animal Show, and the Gollman Brothers Show.

In 1929 the circus world was greatly surprised to learn of one of the biggest deals in circusdom. John Ringling purchased the entire holdings of the American Circus Corporation, including the five circuses, the vast winter quarters in Peru, Ind., and other properties.

Mugivan Success

Jerry Mugivan made his home in Peru where he built an imposing mansion. He died in a Detroit hospital following surgery Jan. 23, 1930, at the age of 56 years, and was buried in Peru.

Rising from humble background, he became one of the most colorful figures in the circus world, a millionaire before he was 40, and as well known abroad as he was in the United States.

Mugivan returned to Terre Haute frequently and kept up friendships here. He presented a pair of lions to Deming Park, and at one time brought a circus here to aid a fund drive for Rose Polytechnic Institute. In 1927 he gave the pipe organ to St. Margaret Mary's Church here, and donated $2,000 to the new St. Patrick's School then being built.

The big Irishman with the rough voice and warm heart endeared himself to all, rich and poor, black and white. Old veterans of the sawdust ring were moved to tears at his untimely death.

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Historically Speaking

T : NOV 1 1981 Clark, Dorothy
Valley

Edward Allen Hannegan's life a story of adventure, tragedy

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

In Woodlawn Cemetery is a grave marked by a low marker which has almost disappeared. Here lies the body of Edward Allen Hannegan, whose death in 1859 removed him as a possible Democratic compromise candidate to make the presidential race against Abraham Lincoln, the Republican.

Someday, perhaps, somebody will write the complete story of this man as it should be written, the intriguing story of this jovial, brilliant Irishman, whose brief career included the highest diplomatic and political honors and a reported love affair with the Queen of Prussia — an affair, it was rumored, which was responsible for his removal as Minister to Prussia, an office he held from 1849 until 1850.

His career included high adventure, color, tragedy and ended in a forgotten, forsaken grave in Terre Haute's oldest cemetery.

Hannegan was born in Hamilton County, Lexington, Ky. Here he received a good education, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1827. He moved to Vincennes, found it too full of lawyers, and settled in Terre Haute where he began his law practices that year.

Terre Haute also had more than its share of lawyers, so Hannegan moved to Crawfordsville in 1830, and after a few months to pioneer Covington, and continued the practice of his profession.

While trying to get established, he taught school and worked as a farm hand.

In December, 1829, he was chosen enrolling clerk by the lower house of the state legislature, and on Jan. 23, 1830 was elected by the legislature on a joint ballot to serve for two years as prosecuting attorney for the first judicial district of the state.

In August, 1831, he was elected a member of the lower house, and the following year, a member of the national House of Representatives, to which he was re-elected in 1834.

As a member of the 23rd and 24th Congresses (1833 through 1837), he was a staunch supporter of the Jackson administration and won considerable repute as an orator.

Resuming his law practice, he became register of the land office at LaPorte in 1839. An unsuccessful candidate in 1840 for election to fill a vacancy in the 26th Congress, he resumed his law practice in Covington.

Failing to secure a third term in Congress, Hannegan offered himself as a candidate for the state House of Representatives in 1841 and was elected.

Two years later, he was elected, without a vote to spare and with one Whig supporter, to the U.S. Senate, where he became an eloquent and aggressive champion of the policy of expansion, voicing the demand of the Old Northwest for the whole of the Oregan country, and leading his party before the nation with the cry "54-40 or fight."

When President Polk agreed to divide the Oregon country with Great Britain, Hannegan delivered several bitter denunciations before the Senate against the president, but, thanks in part to Polk's tactfulness, the breach between them was afterward healed.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1848 to the U.S. Senate. In 1849, the Democrats in the General Assembly of Indiana deserted Hannegan and chose Gov. James Whitcomb to the Senate in his stead.

On learning of Hannegan's defeat, his friends — both Whigs and Democrats — urged the president to find a place for him, and on March 3, 18849, Polk appointed him to the new post of U.S. minister to Prussia in Berlin. Hannegan's stay abroad was very brief, March 22, 1849, to Jan. 13, 1850. He was bold and outspoken, and also reportedly unable to control his appetite for drink. One or both of these failings would be sufficient to explain the request for his recall, which terminated his diplomatic service.

He continued to have political aspirations, but his public career was ended. For a few years he again practiced law at Covington, then moved to St. Louis in 1857, where he spent the last few years of his life, attaining a fair degree of success.

This was after the death of his wife, Margaret Chambers Duncan, a sister of Capt. John R. Duncan of Newark, Ohio.

At Covington, in 1852, Hannegan, reportedly under the influence of liquor, quarreled with his brother-in-law, whom he loved, and stabbed him. Capt. Duncan, who seems to have been drinking also, had pressed the quarrel, and before he died absolved Hannegan from all blame.

Hannegan, who lost his seat in the House in 1836 because of his intemperance, had then become a total abstainer. Aided by his wife, who *stood by him through it all, he* struggled so successfully that he thought he had mastered himself.

It was in this period of abstinence that he was elected to the Senate, but in Washington he reportedly again fell into his old drinking habits.

Hannegan was a man of brilliant talents and was popularly believed to depend more on his natural gifts than on work, but he sometimes wrote out beforehand the eloquent speeches which were supposed to be spontaneous, and he had an extensive library.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was thoroughly sincere and hated dishonesty in private or public affairs, according to the "Dictionary of American Biography."

Hannegan died Feb. 25, 1859, in St. Louis at the age of 51 years, and *was brought to Terre Haute to be* buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

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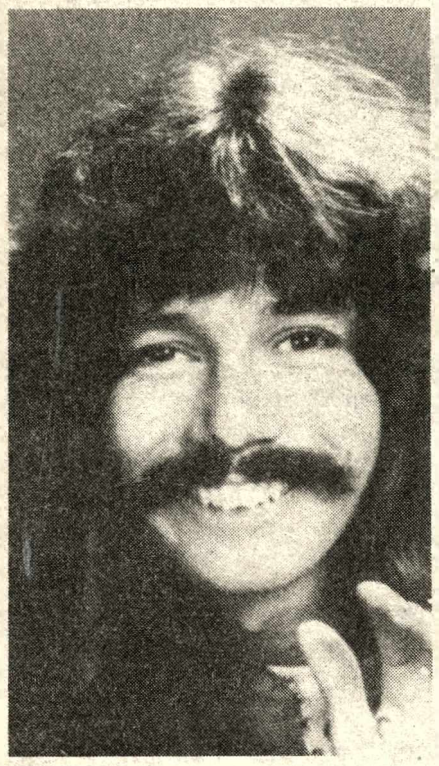
By Josie



Q. *I think Doug Henning is very talented but I was wondering if his real life was as magical as his act? K. Best, Kerrville, Tex.*

A. He seems to make it pop up in his daily life. Recently, when he was proposing marriage to Debra Douillard, a fellow meditation devotee whom he'd met when both were meditating in Fairfield, Iowa, he couldn't settle for just a bended knee and a ring. Instead, he conjured a cut diamond from a rosebud petal.

Q. *I heard that Donna Summer was going to pose for Playboy. Is that true? J. Gibbons, Elko, Nev.*

A. Not likely. The deeply religious Ms. Summer is busier these days extolling the virtues of family life and wholesomeness. "I've been through all the bad ways," she says, remembering her headier life as an actress-singer in Germany and on the rock 'n' roll road here, "and I've found that there's a nicer, cleaner way to do it." Motherhood, with second daughter Brooklyn, has something to do with it; mostly, though, it's her belief in the Lord. She's even perfected a deeply embarrassed blush when she hears or is reminded of her first big hit, the orgiastic "Love to Love You Baby."

Q. *I just came across a recent issue of Playboy with Valerine Perrine's umpteenth nude layout. Doesn't that woman ever get tired of taking off her clothes for pictures? Jackie H., Ft. Myers, Fla.*

A. She sees nothing wrong with it. This time, though, she seemd to have a mission. "I wanted to prove that you don't have to be under 35 to look good," said the edgmg-to-40 Ms. Perrine. Perhaps we have to look forward to similar statements at 50, or even 65, as well.

Q. *I'm getting a little tired of reading things about Patti Davis, the Reagans' daughter. Has she done anything besides* be their daughter? M. Luccese, Boston, Mass.

A. She does have a TV movie due to air shortly, and a few other projects in the air. Basically, though, she is just a fledgling actress and is getting tired herself of being approached by the press. "I'd rather do interviews because I deserve to," she says, something we're bound to see in print again and again and again...

Q. *I saw Peggy Lee in concert here recently and she sounded pretty burned out. What's her story — is it booze? Tina K., Indianapolis, Ind.*

A. The reason Ms. Lee was not up to par, reportedly, was a very sore throat. It happens to many singers, and it has, over the years, happened often to her. Rumors always have her in the throws of alcoholism but that's just a tag she inherited from a movie role back in the '50s — that of an alcoholic singer in "Pete Kelly's Blues." She's been a band singer and on the road for several decades, so Snow White behavior is out of the question, but she does not have a drinking problem.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

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S JUL 25 1982

Lindley helped build Terre Haute

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In 1809 Jonathan Lindley, a North Carolina Quaker who was destined to become one of the original town proprietors of Terre Haute, visited the Indiana Territory with a party of land-seekers and purchased land in what is now Vigo County.

In 1811, under the leadership of Lindley, a party of 30 or more left North Carolina for the Indiana Territory where they stopped at the stockade at Half Moon Spring, near Lick Creek, in what is now Orange County. It seemed inadvisable, due to unsettled conditions and the threat of Indian hostilities, to push on to the Wabash Country as they had planned, so they remained at the Lick Creek Settlement.

In 1813, Lick Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) was set up by the West Branch Quarterly Meeting of Ohio. It grew rapidly. The minutes have been carefully kept, and the early ones have now been typed and bound.

Members were admitted to the meeting from meetings in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio. Among the graves in the old cemetery are those of Deborah Dix Lindley, first wife of Jonathan, who died August, 1811, a few months after her arrival, and Martha Sanders Henley Lindley, second wife of Jonathan.

Some of the earliest arrivals in Honey Creek Township, Vigo County, were members of this pioneer Quaker group or their children and are of great interest to present day descendants.

The first 62 records from Book A, 1813-52, show the marriages of the families of Hill, Trueblood, Hadley, Lindley, Draper, Saint, Jones, Hallowell (also Hollowell), Spivey, Guyer, Doan, Dicks (Dix), Dixon, Atkinson, Thomas, Holiday, Moorman, Bond, Guier, Willard, Crow, Farlow and Mote.

Also, Pickhard, Maris, Towell, Chambers, Braxton, Henley, Clark, Ruebottom, Dawson, Duncan, Cloud, Thompson, Durham, Lowder, Newby, Johnson, Bundy, Hoggatt, Osborn, Frazier, White, Wilson, Thornton, Moore, Ellis, Hodson, Towell, McCoy, Pritchard, Morrison and Woody families.

Each marriage record gives the parentage and place of origin of the bride and groom. Only two give Vigo County as the place of residence, showing the men traveled back to Orange County for their brides.

Thomas Durham, son of William and Jane of Vigo County married in 1821 Mary Lindley, daughter of Thomas and Jane of Orange County. Robert Hoggatt, Honey Creek Township, Vigo County, son of Moses and Deborah of Vigo, married in 1823 Mary Johnson, daughter of Joseph and Sarah, of Orange County.

The original proprietors of the Town of Terre Haute were Jonathan Lindley who owned four-twelfths; Abraham Markle of Fort Harrison with three-twelfths; Hyacinth LaSalle of Vincennes with three-twelfths; and Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt of Louisville, Ky., with one-twelfth each.

Land office records show on Sept. 13, 1816, Joseph Kitchell entered the east fractional Section 21, Township 12 North, Range 9 West, a total of 416.4 acres. The next day, Sept. 14, he entered the east fractional Section 28, 461.24 acres. This total acreage is the land on which the town was laid out and platted.

On Sept. 19, 1816, these lands were purchased from Kitchell by the Terre Haute Town Company. On Oct. 25, the original town plat was filed comprised of 35 blocks, bounded by Eagle Street on the north, Swan on the south, Fifth on the east, and Water Street on the west. An amended plat showing additional five blocks, 40 lots on the south, was filed Oct. 25, 1816. William Hoggatt was a civil engineer in Orange County and the town surveyor here.

A man of prominence, Jonathan Lindley represented Orange County in the first State Legislature. Representing the Terre Haute Land Company, it was his decision to follow the advice of William Hoggatt to lay out the town on its present site.

In those early times of 1816, the roll of the prairie was a ridge running north and south parallel with the river. There was a gully at Third and Chestnut streets which served as a natural drain to carry rain runoff to the river from the plateau above.

Where the Student Union Building now stands on the campus of Indiana State University was then known as "on the hill," an ascent east up Mulberry Street. Beyond lay the prairie and the common terminology of that day was "up the prairie," "down the prairie," or "across the prairie."

The prairie was separated from the river by tall sycamores and other forest trees with oak saplings and hazel bushes as far east as Fifth or Sixth streets. Each stroke of the axe and every driven stake of the engineer further spoiled the natural beauty of the landscape in the name of progress.

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Remembering the life of a man

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Ts OCT 17 1982

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

One of the most interesting gentlemen it was my privilege to interview was James Oscar Leek who lived at Ninth and Maple until his death in 1957. The son of Clay C. and Margaret Leek, he was born in 1875 on the northeast corner of Tenth and Ohio streets.

Before his retirement, Clay C. Leek was Yardmaster for the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad (later the C. & E.I.). He then went into the drug business at Sixth and Tippecanoe streets, across the street from the old Big Four Depot.

Leek explained the big bend in the street near the depot. It seems the Big Four acquired the property where the depot is now, and because the city had to run Tippecanoe Street through the area and there were two large houses in the way, the bend seemed necessary.

Later these houses were torn down, and Monninger & Dressler built the Great Northern Hotel. Oldtimers could remember when the Union Station was at Tenth and Chestnut, and the trains had to back around to get into the old station before the later Union Station was built between Sycamore and Spruce streets, a half block east of Ninth Street at the intersection of the Pennsylvania (Penn Central) and the C. & E.I. (now L & N) tracks.

Recalls School Days

Leek (then in his eighties) could remember all his teachers at the "Old Bloody Sixth Ward School" (later Thompson) at 12th and Ohio streets. He confessed he had carved his name on all his desks.

His teachers were Mary Wilkin, Fanny McCuen, Mary Flanagan, Elizabeth Solomon, Miss Robbins, Margaret Kenny, Margaret Preston, Albert Wyeth, the critic teacher, and Harriet Paige, music teacher.

During school years, Leek spent his summer vacations in various jobs. He made cores (of sand and flour) at the American Car & Foundry under Boss Billy Utz. Two summers were spent in the bottling plant of the Terre Haute Brewing Company, 9½ and Poplar streets. With the primitive equipment used in 1890, a man went home tired if he managed to bottle four barrels a day.

Another job was at the Crawford & Nippert Rolling Mill located just below 13th and Crawford streets. He "fed nails" for William Stevenson and Perry Cravens and was paid 22 cents for 100 pounds of these cut steel nails, not the wire-cut nails used today.

Took Business Course

Two years at Wiley High School were followed by a business course at the Garvin & Isbell Business College, located on the third floor of a building at the southeast corner of Sixth and Wabash.

Leek remembered when there were mostly one-story buildings on Wabash Avenue — Delmonico's Restaurant where Senator Voorhees and other famous men dined; Nicolai's with its fabulous bar and elaborate dining room; the old Post Office facing Sixth Street, one-half block south of Wabash, and the First National Bank at Fourth and Wabash.

The Ball Park was at 19th and Wabash, and from there on east, there was nothing but cornfields. In those early days, residents rode on mule-drawn street cars. One line ran north on Sixth Street to Locust, then east past the old Rose Polytechnic Institute (later Gerstmeyer High School) then north again on 13th Street.

Later a mule line was established starting from 11th and Wabash to Poplar, east to 13th, then south on 13th to Crawford. When electricity replaced the mules, Leek was a passenger on the first electric car to leave the barns at Ninth and Cherry to make its first run.

Fontanet Drugstore

Leek worked with his father in the drugstore, then moved the store to Fontanet, Ind., where he was also Postmaster for over 10 years. It was during this time the Powder Mill explosion occurred. Leek witnessed the collapse of Fontanet School from his vantage point on the back porch of the drugstore.

In 1911, Leek moved back to Terre Haute, established his drugstore on the northwest corner of 13th and Eighth Avenue, and remained there 15 years. In 1918, he was a member of the city council for three years under Mayor Charles Hunter. From 1922 to 1926 he served on the Board of Safety under Mayor Davis, and held the office of County Treasurer from 1926 to 1929.

In 1892 there were 10 drugstores in the city. They also sold paint and liquor in those days. Leek drove a delivery wagon for the wholesale drug firm of Cook, Bell and Black located where the Root Store used to be.

Liquor Deliveries

When the old covered bridge across the Wabash River was torn down and the present bridge was under construction, a ferry was the only means of crossing. The black horse used to pull the delivery wagon was unpredictable and on one occasion became fractious and backed up allowing the rear wheels of the wagon to drop down. Without an end gate, everything in the wagon slid out and dropped into the river. Leek remembered jugs of whiskey, gin and wine, each weighing about 20 pounds, that were lost. At that time, the very best whiskey could be purchased for $2 to $3 a gallon, with only $1.10 tax.

This same troublesome black horse also figured in another well-remembered incident. Leek's employer, Mr. Cook, invited the new minister, Dr. Crume, to take a tour of the city with him. Much to the embarrassment of Cook, and to the complete bewilderment of the preacher, the horse came to a full stop in front of each saloon where the delivery wagon normally delivered liquor.

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Pioneers (Ind) &
Clark, Dorothy
Community Affairs File

Historically speaking

Joseph Shaw settled in Walnut Prairie

T S JAN 1 6 1983

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

One of the earliest settlers of Clark County, Ill., was Joseph Shaw who emigrated from Knox County, Ind., to the south end of Walnut Prairie, near the narrows of the Wabash River, in the spring of 1818.

His father, John Shaw, originally came from Ireland to Pennsylvania where Joseph was born on Christmas Day, 1773, and came west with the family to Jefferson County, Ky., near Louisville.

In one of the Indian raids on the early settlers, John Shaw was killed at a spring on Chenowith's Run, where he and William, a 12-year-old son, had gone for water. The boy was taken prisoner, carried off and adopted by his captors.

In 1791, Joseph was in a command of Kentucky troops in Gen. St. Clair's campaign against the Indians in the wilderness of Western Ohio. On Nov. 3, the army was encamped a few miles from the Indian villages on the Miami River, and about sunrise the next morning was unexpectedly attacked by the Indians, badly defeated and scattered.

With his left upper arm broken, Shaw fled the battlefield pursued by an Indian. In crossing a deep ravine he stumbled and fell into the top of a fallen tree. The pursuing savage came to the top of the bank and not seeing him turned back in search of other fugitives.

Shaw lay there covered up by leaves until dark, then left his hiding place and headed for Fort Jefferson. Pursued and attacked by a pack of wolves drawn by the scent of his blood, he drove them off with a heavy club. It took three days to reach the fort, as he could only travel at night to avoid capture.

The surgeon at the fort decided to amputate his arm as it was badly swollen and in bad condition. Shaw firmly refused amputation and by careful treatment the arm was saved. During the flight to the fort he lived on nuts and roots. His brother, William, now a grown man, fought with the Indians in this battle.

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About 1800 Joseph moved to Clark County, Ind., living there until about 1808 or 1809, and then moved to Knox County, Ind., and was in Vincennes at the time of Gen. William Henry Harrison's conference with Tecumseh and his followers. It was in this council that the great chief told the General he lied.

In the fall of 1811, Gen. Harrison made his campaign against the Indians and fought the battle of Tippecanoe on Nov. 7, in which Joseph and his brother, William — who had become disgusted with savage life and returned to his own people — both took part as soldiers under Harrison.

On the morning of the battle, after it became light enough for the combatants to see, they found they were close together, and one of the Indians recognized William and called him by his Indian name. William answered him, they immediately exchanged shots, and William received a mortal wound in one of his lungs and died a short time later.

Joseph lived on his farm in Walnut Prairie from 1818 to October, 1847, when he moved to Marshall, Ill., and died there in February, 1848.

I'm indebted to Wilfred Shaw of Marshall for a detailed account of his family. He is directly descended through the line of John-Joseph-Nineveh-William-Wilfred (his father who was born in 1860).

Nineveh, oldest son of Joseph Shaw, was born in 1796 in Jefferson County, Ky. He married in 1820 to Mary Latshaw and settled near his father where he lived until his death. He went on a trading trip to New Orleans in the spring of 1844 and returned with impaired health. He died later that year, leaving a widow and eight children, three sons and five daughters.

Nineveh Shaw served as County Commissioner for one or two terms, and was a Major of the Illinois Militia. He held frequent drill musters of his battalion at Darwin, then the county seat. In the spring of 1832, he enlisted as a volunteer in the Black Hawk War. He served as a private in Capt. John F. Richardson's Company of Mounted Militia, went to Fort Wilbourn, near Hennepin, the place of rendezvous, and one June 18 was mustered into the service of the United States as Adjutant of the Spy Battalion commanded by Major McHenry, for whom the county was named.

Following this war service, he went to Louisiana in December, 1832, to settle the estate of his brother, William, who had died at Milliken's Bend on the Mississippi River. Since William, at the age of 34 years had never married, his estate went to Nineveh's children, and his body was returned for burial in the Walnut Prairie cemetery.

Grandfather William Shaw, fifth of the nine children of Nineveh and Mary, was born in 1830 in York Township. He married Lucy Young in 1859, the daughter of Thomas and Lucy (Barbee) Young, of Crawford County. Of their five children, all born in Marshall, Wilfred Sr. became the father of the present Wilfred Shaw who proudly claims six generations of this direct Shaw line.

This wrifer is always interested in hearing from those who have interesting family accounts of their ancestor's participation in local, state or national history.

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legends

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Town characters left monumental

JAN 29 1984

Clark, Dorothy + Pioneer Life (TH)

By Dorothy J. Clark

Historically speaking

Terre Haute has had town characters since the days of the Indians. Their Indian names are unknown, but the white people called two of them Bob Johnnycake and George Washington. Many tales were told of their doings, some hilarious, some malicious vandalism, and finally of their monumental drunks and fights.

When Bob Johnnycake killed George Washington in a grudge fight, no official notice was taken of the murder because "they were only Indians." B.J. ran away, but more to avoid the vengeance of G.W.'s relatives and friends, than fear of trial by law.

Indians here were indoctrinated into the Christian religion by the Rev. J. Buell, a Methodist evangelist who came to the Terre Haute area frequently to teach and preach. His favorite method of instruction for Indians was to show a chart he had drawn showing a straight and narrow road leading from earth to what he called the Happy Hunting Ground. Another road led from the straight and narrow road to the infernal regions below.

Old Preacher Buell described both roads and their endings with such fervor that he had them laughing with joy or falling to the ground and groaning when they saw the transgressor tied to the stake while demons danced around the funeral pyre.

Another Indian named See-Sheep was a small, bow-legged, stoop-shouldered, white-haired, 110-year-old chief of a Pottowatomie band in this area. A gallant fighter in his younger days, he was still alert and very active.

One day he crossed over the Army Ford near Cayuga and stoleroasting ears and squashes from a white man's garden patch. This white man, Noel Hubbard, was a squatter on Indian land. See-Sheep didn't scare and chased Hubbard out of the field with a stick.

Hubbard wanted to call out the Rangers to punish him, but his neighbors suggested a powwow. It was decided the two would settle their argument with a fist fight. The little old chief, dressed only in a blanket belt, threw it off and started for Hubbard who ran as fast as he could, mounted his horse, and rode out of sight. The other Indians rolled on the ground howling with glee. Yes, See-Sheep was definitely a character.

One of the most colorful characters in local history was Drummer Davis, a deserter from the British army at Detroit who joined Harrison's army and was a drummer at Fort Harrison. After the War of 1812, he made his home with a son-in-law in Fayette Township.

On election days and muster days, whiskey was taken freely and then came the fighting. Drummer Davis was a very short-legged, long-bodied, red-faced, big-nosed little man, with a loud voice and awfully profane. While beating his drum, he could throw one of his sticks in the air, toss off a glass of whiskey, catch the stick on the way down, and never lose a beat.

Another local character was a rugged pioneer who went out one morning before breakfast to bring in a deer for fresh meat. He shot a fine buck, threw him over his shoulder and started for home. A large black bear jumped up in front of him, he shot it, and put the huge carcass on the other shoulder and went on home.

Breakfast was waiting, so he dumped off the bear on the floor and sat down at the table. His wife asked if he proposed to eat with the deer on his back. He apologized by saying he felt so light after dropping the bear that he had entirely forgotten about the lighter weight of the deer.

This was the same character who lost his hat and went bare-headed for the period of time equal to that he supposed his hat would have lasted. One day this old pioneer paid 25 cents a pound for bacon, and when asked why, when the woods were full of game, he replied that he craved something greasy!

Characters were not always men. There was this local woman who sold ginger cakes and metheglim or

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mead, an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting wild honey and rain water in an old cedar churn.

She was a familiar sight at all public gatherings carrying her churn with one arm and cakes in her apron with the other. One cake and a gourd full of drink cost four pence, half-penny.

In the early 1830s, a large family lived in a lonely cabin four miles from any neighbors. Two girls, ages 18 to 20, dug ginseng and gathered beeswax in the fall. They had no horse, so they'd go into the woods, hunt two wild bull buffaloes without horns, put halters around their necks and ride them home.

Then they would load up 100 pounds of beeswax and "sang," mount the steeds and ride them to the nearest store to trade for coloring dyes and cotton thread to be woven into cloth to make clothes for the family. They would ride the beasts home and turn them loose in the woods again until they were needed. They were called the Bull-Riders.

Tom Puckett was a famous local character. He was hunting bear one day about 20 miles south of Terre Haute when he came across one lying on the sunny side of a hill sound asleep.

The trouble was the bear was so huge that if he killed it where it was he'd never get it home. He doubted he could even carry the hide that far. So he woke up the animal and tried to herd it in the right direction.

But the bear waddled first this way, then the other, and probably traveled 40 miles instead of the original 20. About seven miles out, Puckett got mad and shot the contrary bear, skinned him and brought the immense hide in to town where it was displayed in a downtown store window.

Old Tom Puckett was a harmless, inoffensive man, a rough carpenter who built round-log houses with dirt floors. He became very eccentric in later years and went to Texas and became a real cowboy. He fought Mexicans and finally went on one too many cattle drives and died when very old at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Thomas Parsons, in Douglas County, Ill.

Next week's column will continue the stories of local town characters.

Clark, Dorothy ± Biography Collection

Town characters danced into hearts of the people

FEB 5 1984

Historically speaking

By Dorothy J. Clark

This week's column continues the story of local town characters — like Si Bullard, a stagecoach driver who drove west out of town on the National Road. Jovial, accommodating and tremendously popular, Bullard was widely known as a singer and imitator. While a mile away, he would announce his coming and the number of his passengers planning to eat a meal at the next stop by a peculiar call he gave on the stagecoach horn.

Bullard wore a long coat, fancy boots (fur-lined in winter), gauntlets, and a great bell-crowned hat. He was quite the ladies' man. Every tavern had a bar, and the passengers always urged the driver to join them. Bullard drank heavily of corn whiskey, but his ability with the whip was spectacular.

Bullard was called on to drive the six horses pulling the huge 30-foot long, wooden sleigh which hauled 50 young people to and from sleighing parties and dances. All small boys wanted to grow up to become another Si Bullard.

William Marrs was the first village blacksmith and one of the first settlers in town. His log shop was the first in Terre Haute at the northeast corner of First and Poplar streets. Described as a short, heavy-set, brusk, honest and capable man. Marrs carried a walking stick later in life when he was elected Town Marshal in 1832 when Terre Haute was incorporated.

Justice was swift in those early days. If any of the town ordinances were violated, Uncle Billy was notified. He would leave his shop with his sleeves still rolled up and wearing his leather apron to find the culprit.

He would solemnly ask questions to determine guilt or innocence, and if guilty would impose the fine he thought appropriate. After collecting the money, he would go directly to Samuel Crawford, town treasurer, and turn it over.

Marrs resigned in 1849 after working for the County and the Town in some official capacity since 1815. One time he was Market Master with brass beam for weighing butter, patent balance for beef, assortments of copper measures for grain, etc. He was also a butcher, killing cattle and selling beef.

Jim Conover told the story of the black man who worked for his great-grandfather who owned land on both sides of the Wabash and Erie Canal north of Maple Avenue. This man could not swim and would not learn, but he had devised his own way to get back and forth across the canal to do farm chores.

Taking a deep breath, he would crawl on his hands and knees under water from one bank to the other. This was a laughable phenomenon, and crowds would gather to see the performance.

Isaac Ball, Terre Haute's first undertaker to bring a hearse to town, took pride in his horses. He bought a fine-lookingdun-colored horse which he named George to lead his funeral processions hitched to the buggy of the clergyman.

George became a town character. One day he was being shod at the blacksmith shop on South Third Street. He was so gentle and obedient he was never tied up after the work was completed. Just then a funeral procession passed by. George recognized the line of carriages as similar to those he always led. So he walked out of the stable, took his place at the head of the slowly moving procession and led the way to Woodlawn Cemetery.

Someone recognized George and sent word to Mr. Ball. He sent a man out to find George gravely waiting in line to return to the city with the cortege. It used to be the custom in Terre Haute to have a band in the funeral procession. The widow had the choice of $50 or a band if her husband had been a member of any of the several fraternal orders.

Over the years Terre Haute has had more than its share of town characters, colorful people who were part of the daily passing parade. They came to public attention sometimes because of a drinking problem, family problem, and sometimes just because they marched to a different drummer's beat not heard by ordinary citizens.

For 50 years Wesley Weathers, a tiny peddler, was a town character. Only four feet tall, he was Terre Haute's smallest citizen. A true son of nature, Weathers was the first peddler about in the spring with aromatic sassafras.

Keen on Wabash River lore, his memory ran back to days when packet boats plied the river. He was considered very knowledgeable onthe subject of steamboats, when the first channel catfish came up-river in the spring, where the fish were running, and where the minnows were to be found.

In addition to selling sassafras and maple sugar in the spring, and selling kindling in the fall, Weathers sold lampwicks and shoestrings in downtown Terre Haute, one of the most persistent salesmen around Fourth and Main streets.

Here he set up in competition with medicine men and did a thriving business until he retired in 1912 to the County Poor Farm where he predicted his own death on Friday the 13th.

There are many stories to tell about Police Officer Rickelman who directed traffic for many years at Seventh and Wabash. One of the best is about the time he was walking a beat on North Seventh. He found a dead dog at the corner of Tippecanoe, and was required to fill out a report. He couldn't spell Tippecanoe, so he dragged the dead animal to Elm Street. He could spell Elm!

Another Rickelman story involves the time he stopped a car for a minor traffic problem. The young couple apologized for their error and used as their excuse the fact that they were on their honeymoon from Pennsylvania. Immediately Rickelman wanted to know if that was true, then why did their license plate have "Pa." on it?

If any reader has a favorite town character story, please call or write to me. I'll use the information in a future column on the subject.

Community Affairs File
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Clark, Dorothy — Railroads (T.H.)

Baugh traded river for life on the tracks

T. APR 2 8 1985

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

William "Billy" Baugh was born in Virginia near the North Carolina line in 1818 and moved with his family to Madison, Ind., on the Ohio River in 1829. Young Baugh was fascinated by the steamboat traffic on the river and determined to follow the romantic life of a river man.

Baugh learned all he could about the river from glamorous tales spun by river men of their experiences on the Ohio, Kentucky and Green rivers. He served in various capacities — cabin boy, pilot, engineer — until he abandoned the river in 1844 to become a fireman on the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad under the supervision of George Ramsey, engineer, and Samuel Thomas, master mechanic.

Firing then was on "mixed trains," freight and passenger combined, at a time when few dreamed of the palace cars and vestibule trains that were to come. The building of railroads was a slow business because the work could be carried forward only from the end of the line. The iron on the M & I had come to Madison and been hauled out on the road from that point.

Baugh fired an engine for nine months before he was promoted to the "right hand side" and became a "runner." The locomotives in those days were minus cab and pilot and had no heater pipes. On one occasion when the pumps were frozen, Baugh had to saturate his shirt with oil and set fire to it to thaw them out.

When water was in short supply, and there were no water tanks along the line, it became necessary to fill the tank by bailing water from the pools along the road. When the snow covered the tracks, instead of a snow-plow, men stood on the bumpers, one on each side, holding boards between their knees in a way that would clear the tracks.

In 1849 Baugh quit the M & I and got a job on the Shelbyville & Knightstown Railroad where C. R. Peddle was engineer. After four months he returned to Madison where he again met Peddle, who had been hired by Chauncey Rose as master mechanic of the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad.

Peddle hired Baugh to take charge of the new locomotive "Clay," and on May 1, 1851, Baugh began running out of Indianapolis. That part of the road between Indianapolis and Richmond afterward became the "Panhandle." The road between Terre Haute and Indianapolis was not completed until February 1852, when the two ends of the road were joined about a mile and a half east of Greencastle.

The first train went through from Indianapolis to Terre Haute on March 1, 1852, with Billy Baugh in charge of the "Clay." The conductor was Wilson.

Baugh ran between Terre Haute and Indianapolis continuously until the fall of 1871 when he abandoned the cab and throttle to work in the shops as a hostler (he who moves engines in the round house) and later as engine repairman.

When he reached the age of 75, W. R. McKeen, president of the Vandalia system, retired the veteran railroader on full pay, but he did not remain retired very long. He found a job in the tool rooms of the Vandalia shops where he continued active, enjoying life and his daily association with other railroaders.

A charter member of Division No. 25 at Terre Haute, Baugh had previously joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Indianapolis.

Another veteran railroader, Asa Sherburne, was an engineer and passenger conductor on the Vandalia main line who retired in 1874. He went to railroading on the Vandalia in 1851 when it was the T.H.& R. Railroad. Born in New York, he had been firing on the New York Central before becoming engineer on the Vandalia's gravel train. He remembered Billy Baugh who was running a construction train at that time.

Sherburne ran a passenger train on the Vandalia for 19 years before becoming a conductor in 1870 for four years between St. Louis and Indianapolis. He used to room with George Likert when they were in St. Louis. Likert had started as a train boy in 1861 and was the oldest Vandalia employee without a break in service in 1901. John and Sam Trindle first came to Vandalia in 1856.

Sherburne moved to Terre Haute in 1852, but also lived between Terre Haute and Indianapolis at several locations. He lived at 11th and Chestnut streets for more than a decade. After his wife's death, he boarded at the Thomas House in Greencastle near the Vandalia tracks.

Sherburne had five brothers: "Squire" Sherburne, a Van passenger engineer killed in the late 1870s at First Street in Terre Haute; Charles Sherburne; Bill Sherburne, a Vandalia passenger engineer who resided in Colorado; Jethro Sherburne, also a Van engineer and master mechanic at Buffalo when he died; and Jim Sherburne, a blacksmith. Asa had two sons, Harry who lived at Brazil, and Ned C., who lived in Ohio, and a married daughter who lived in Kentucky.

Andrew Walker was the engineer of Engine No. 17, the first engine and train to pass over the new Wabash Bridge of the T.H.& I.'s State Line Extension at noon April 26, 1870.

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mighty Wabash

Wabash R. Clark, Dorothy L. Comm

'Skipper' Steele knew well the

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Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Few men could equal Malcolm A. Steele's accumulated knowledge of the Wabash River. Better known as "Skipper," Steele was interested in the river beginning in childhood.

His first river trip was in 1882 when he was 8. The Steele family planned to visit in Hutsonville, Ill., and boarded the steamboat "Janie Rea" at the foot of Walnut Street.

Going past the courthouse square, a jungle of young trees and shrubbery before the present courthouse was built, Steele saw hitching racks all around the square for horse-drawn buggies and wagons. The family passed the Crapo House at First and Walnut streets, and continued on west over the cobblestones to the boat landing. The first paved street in town was Walnut from First to the low-water level.

The boat landing was the busiest place in town in 1882. A number of boats were working the river including the "Johnny Walker," sister boat to the "Janie Rea," the "Prairie City," and the "Reindeer."

Horse-drawn drays and rigs were delivering farm machinery, lumber, groceries, etc., and the lower deck of the "Janie Rea" was piled high with freight. Her upper deck accommodated 35 to 40 passengers in the cabins. This boat made regular trips from Terre Haute to Vincennes.

Capt. William Cooper was the pilot. His son, Charles, was also a licensed pilot. The engineer was Lance Palmer. Two long and one short blast from the whistle of the "Janie Rea" was the signal to the farmers along the Wabash that B.G. Hudnut was paying the highest price for their white corn. It was said that he had this unique whistle patented.

Early in the spring the Hudnut Milling Co. would pay for hauling about 5,000 grain sacks down river to be distributed along the river banks whereever there were corn cribs. The filled sacks would be picked up later by the "Janie Rea."

The first gasoline-powdered motor boat on the Wabash was owned by George Crane, Ora Davis and Frank Carmack. They built a camp on the river opposite and just north of the present Elks Club. According to Steele, Lewis Rippetoe purchased the first Johnson marine engine for his launch.

When he was in high school, Steele built his own canoe and spent as much time as possible on the river. Later he operated the "Fairy Queen," a pleasure boat built by Capt. Shoemaker for the Terre Haute Hunting and Fishing Club.

The last boat on the Wabash to carry freight between Terre Haute and Merom was the "City of Terre Haute" with Capt. William Cooper in charge. Built by Steele in the 1890s, the gasoline-propelled stern-wheeler was 65 feet long and 16 feet wide. This boat made regular trips to Merom, stopping at Fairbanks Landing, Prevo Landing, Darwin, York, Hutsonville, Merom, Palestine Landing and Bright Light, a saloon at the railroad crossing over the Wabash below Merom. The boat delivered 20 to 40 cases of beer and two or three tons of ice there each trip.

The boat carried all kinds of freight and passengers, and caused the railroads to cut their freight rates in half to meet the competition for these stops along the Wabash.

The last large steamboat on the upper Wabash was the "Piankeshaw," which was used to move barges for the Wabash Sand and Gravel Co. Edward Tetzel owned a 35-foot side-wheeler pleasure boat used for hunting and fishing trips.

Licensed pilots were obligated to come on call whenever their services were needed, no matter how busy they might be with other activities. George J. Hammerstein, a license holder, was frequently called away from his downtown queensware store to pilot a steamboat. Sam Garvin was a licensed engineer, and William Carr was a pilot. Capt. Cooper was the last licensed pilot in Terre Haute; Capt. Shoemaker died shortly before him.

The Wabash River in the vicinity of Terre Haute has seen a lot of traffic from the days of the Indian canoes, French pirogues, flatboats and steamboats to the modern motor boats. The first steamboat, the "Florence," arrived in Terre Haute in 1822, the first of many such boats to carry passengers and freight up and down the Wabash.

The shipyard, located just north of the present waterworks, constructed the big Terre Haute boat of 1841. It was 130 feet long, 29 feet wide and carried 10,000 bushels of corn.

In the early 1880s, George Faris was elected to Congress by the people interested in the promotion of the Wabash River. Through his efforts an appropriation was made

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by Congress for the first government survey.

According to Capt. Cooper, three engineers were hired to do this survey. They engaged the "Janie Rea" for the entire time necessary to do the job. Then they loaded on the supplies required for the job — a case of whiskey and a crate of oranges.

Sitting on the forward deck they cut the oranges in two pieces and threw the halves overboard, measuring their bobbing progress from one point to another to gauge the speed of the river's current. They drank the whiskey in between times to ward off a chill or for some other imaginary medicinal purpose. A delightful summer vacation was enjoyed by three men at goverment expense, and nothing was ever heard of their report.

In the 1890s, another surbey was ordered. This time nine or 10 men brought a houseboat and anchored it a half mile south of the wagon bridge. Here they played cards most of the day, and came into town every night to make the rounds of all the west-end saloons. The snagboat they had brought along to pull snags with stayed anchored on the opposite side of the river. Thus ended the second survey of the Wabash River.

Steele and other old-time river men believed that dredging would do no good. As long as the old paddle wheel steamers were in use, they kept the sand out of the channel. They lobbied for the building of three dams between Terre Haute and Mount Carmel.

Steele told of the "first river bottom" which the Wabash had overflowed each spring from earliest knowledge of the river. This land was never cultivated, as the water ran off slowly and was held in several ponds, namely Five-Mile Pond, Conover, Goose and Grassy Ponds. When the levee associations built the Jenckes Levee, Prairieton, Hutsonville and Vincennes levees, these ponds became dry and fell into disuse as natural reservoirs.

"The second bottom" was good farming land, and the farmers averaged four crops out of five. With the heavy yield of 100 bushels of corn to the acre, the farmer could afford to lose one crop out of five.

When the Jenckes, Prairieton and West Terre Haute levees were strengthened and repaired, the old-timers predicted that the next high water would flood all of West Terre Haute from the north. Water running down hill has to find its level, and the more water there is, the farther it spreads out, flooding more and more acres. The old Wabash on a rampage is an awesome sight and greatly to be feared.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Wiley's early days

City settled around courthouse

Ts JAN 03 1988

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Professor William H. Wiley came to Terre Haute on April Fool's Day, 1865, the year after the Wabash & Erie Canal stopped full operation. He remembered Col. Thomas Dowling, canal agent, who later built Dowling Hall on North Sixth Street, where the Chanticleer Building is now. A place of entertainment, Dowling Hall later was occupied by the Miller-Parrot Baking Co. Dowling was one of the leaders in Democratic political circles at that time.

Population of Terre Haute stood at about 7,000 when he arrived here to become a teacher in the Voorhees School, where he also was principal, succeeding P. B. O'Riley who resigned to take a job in the county clerk's office.

Wiley came from Indianapolis on the Richmond & Terre Haute Railroad. The trip took three hours. This was just two weeks before the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, and he recalled a meeting of citizens called at the courthouse the next day. The courthouse was a brick building of about four rooms. Surrounding the place were large ash trees, some 2 feet in diameter, which were cut down about this time. The stumps stood in the courthouse yard for several years before they were removed.

The bank on the south side of Ohio Street went out of business about this time, and the McKeen-Minshall bank was just being organized. There was another independent bank operated by Pat Shannon on South Fourth Street.

The entire business of the city, according to Wiley, was on Wabash Avenue (known as Main Street), and up and down Second and Third streets with some as far as Fourth. East of the courthouse on the opposite side of Third was a row of one-story buildings where some of the principal stores were located. The Masonic hall was located on the third floor of one of the buildings erected a little later in the same block.

All of the leading citizens lived along First, Second and Third streets. Capt. James Hook resided in a building between Cherry and Mulberry streets on the east side of North Second Street. Curtis Gilbert lived at Second and Ohio streets. This vicinity was dotted with taverns (early hotels) except the Terre Haute House which was outside town limits and considered a road-house inn.

At the time the first part of the Terre Haute House was erected, Chauncey Rose offered the city the entire block between Wabash and Ohio and Seventh and Eighth streets for a city park if the city would build a fence around the land. The city fathers declined his offer. The entire area was nothing more than a cow pasture. The land extending west from Seventh also was vacant. Wiley recalled a big political meeting there as late as 1884 during the campaign of Governor Gray.

When the lots were laid out by the Terre Haute Land Co., certain places were set aside for specific purposes. A quarter of a block at Fourth and Mulberry was designated for a seminary (later the site of Hook School). The seminary later was located on what now is the Indiana State University campus, about where the Main building of Indiana State Normal School stood.

An old photo of the seminary shows it to be a two-story brick building of eight to 10 rooms on a spot of high ground with no walks and a clump of trees, apparently orchards in the rear, with several houses dotted around.

The seminaries in each county later were closed by law in 1853, and the place was used for a public school until 1867 when it was given to the state for the Normal School. Being an educator, Wiley was very interested in all schools.

The first city high school occupied the third floor of a new school building erected in 1858 at Fourth and Mulberry. It was known as City School No. 1. In 1869 permission was obtained to move the high school to the Normal School building where it remained until Sept. 13, 1886. Two years later the Normal School was destroyed by fire.

At this time the new high school (to become Wiley High School) was being built, and by mid-summer was finished and the Normal School classes moved there. Gov. Isaac Gray presented the diplomas at the new building at Seventh and Poplar streets that year, the last of his term.

Wiley lived near the farm of Gen. Charles Cruft from 1865 to 1866. There was only one house on the entire farm which extended from Seventh to 13th streets and from College to Hulman streets.

During 1876 he recalled attending a political meeting in a joint wigwam of Democrats and Republicans on South Sixth Street, about where Brown's Business College later was located. He heard talks by Sen. Morton, Bog Ingersoll and Gen. Fitzpatrick. The Greenback Party was at its peak then and for the next four years.

The first train rolled into the Vandalia station at 10th and Chestnut streets in 1854 when it still was necessary to use the ferry in order to cross the Wabash River. W.A. Sanford of West Terre Haute, who came to Terre Haute in 1853 with his parents, remembered when his father hitched up to the old hack and took the entire family to the station to see the first train come in.

His father drove a hack between Terre Haute and Marshall, Ill., for a number of years, when it was the only conveyance between the two places until several years later.

Wiley had a retentive memory of people and places and events, and the drive to write it all down for later generations to learn from.

Teacher turned his life around as first TH merchant

FEB 26 1989 Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

From all accounts, Lucius H. Scott, pioneer settler, was an energetic and able man of business, self-cultured and refined, courteous and dignified, social and sympathetic, a man of irreproachable morals.

As a youth he trudged into Terre Haute on foot, in 1817, with letters of introduction to the officers at Fort Harrison. His school teaching in a little log house built for him was brief, and the close of the first half year in a western settlement found him penniless and a convalescent invalid.

Scott became the first merchant by opening a stock of goods entrusted to his management on New Year's Day, 1818, which was Terre Haute's first shopping day, and the beginning of his fortune. Along with his local store, he had acquired a half interest in a business at Lafayette in 1833 that inventoried $24,000.

It seems the Linton brothers were able to branch out by going in business at Lafayette, one of the best early river towns. They formed a partnership with John Taylor there, and agreed to furnish the capital and he to pay the interest on all over $3,000 furnished, which would put the entire capital at $6,000. They were to sell the new house goods at cost and allow Taylor half the profits.

Scott bought David Linton's quarter interest in 1833 for $6,000, paying for it with his share of Lot 172, the corner of Second and Wabash, valued at $4,500.

Later Scott acquired another fourth, and his records showed that the business was worth over $18,000, a good return. Taylor was a good manager, and died a wealthy man. His son, Linton Taylor, became one of Lafayette's substantial citizens.

William Linton invested heavily in real estate in the northwest quarter of Terre Haute which was expected to benefit greatly from the Wabash & Erie Canal. It would have happened if the Canal had opened as soon as expected, if it had a dozen years head start of the railroad development here instead of the two years. The growth of the town would have been vastly different.

His heirs held some of that property, and it was their guardian, Lucius H. Scott, who gave to the city for park purposes, the square in Linton's Addition, which the city afterwards transferred to the Crawford Iron Works.

Scott was elected sheriff at the first county election, and before too long he was able to resign the position of county agent which was worth $60 a year. He was also elected to the state legislature.

In 1832, Lucius H., and J. Scott (Gen. John Scott, father of Crawford Scott, was cousin to Lucius) were doing a good wholesale and retail business at Ohio and Market (now Third and Ohio) and carried a "well assorted stock in fair quantity" according to the weekly newspaper. One ad offered for sale 150 bags of Havana and Java coffee, 40 casks of Jamaica, St. Croix and New England Rum, 15 casks genuine Dutch madder, 220 casks of Boston nails and white lead, 10 barrels of almonds and Epsom and Glauber salts (pleasing mixture?) and 10 barrels of lemons and prunes, etc., to be sold for cash.

Scott told how he settled his eastern bills before Terre Haute had a bank. He had to ship specie by wagon and boat to Philadelphia, then the principal jobbing city for western trade. The specie, nearly all Spanish silver, was put inside cakes of beeswax, packed in a keg or box, with a private mark on it, that was mixed up with other kegs and boxes of produce.

He built a brick building at the southwest corner of Third and Ohio, long known as the "Sparks Corner," in 1828. In the old private account book used by him and W. C. Linton, are Scott's pencil drawings and specifications for the building which was a fine residence, built with hewn timber instead of sawed joists. The drawings show the old circle-headed doors and windows, and probably the first bath room in the town, along with the design of an elaborate garden plat.

The mansion Scott built was of the same style followed by the builders of the Linton, Warren, Deming, Cruft, Paddock and other first-class old houses. He lived in it until after 1835 when his first wife died. Mrs. W. C. Linton was a left a widow the same year.

Mrs. F. E. Warren told how she was invited, with the governess, for a supper or visit at Mrs. Wasson's who kept a boarding house later occupied by Lyman Booth. They were surprised by seeing the marriage of Scott and Mrs. Linton, the engagement having been kept a secret. The Scotts lived at Spring Hill until it became too haunted by memories for her following the deaths of her son in accident, and of her small daughter.

Scott was the guardian of the Linton estate, and in 1846, about the time he closed his affairs here, he had, including his own, the management of $150,000 worth of property, not including personal liens on lands. His own share was over one-third. He moved to Philadelphia before 1850 and died there in 1875.

His late wife, who had married well twice, besides having another suitor of considerable prominence, was remembered as a woman of winning manners and pleasing appearance.

Lucius H. Scott was a Free Mason of prominence, the third Past Master of the old Terre Haute Lodge 19, and afterwards the Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Pennsylvania.

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Community Affairs File

Mural captures great moment

Magna Charta signing adorns courtroom wall

IS JUN 11 1989

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

June 15 marks the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Charta by King John in 1215, the forerunner of all rights enjoyed by Anglo-Saxons and Americans, even the Fifth Amendment.

But how many readers have seen the large mural of this famous event which decorates the west wall of the Federal Court Room in the Federal Building, corner of Seventh and Cherry streets?

Frederick Webb Ross, the artist, was commissioned to paint the mural for the new building dedicated here in 1935. The mural was painted in sections in his New York studio, boxed up and sent here to be permanently mounted on the court's wall.

Ross, a nephew of the local kindergarten teacher Stella Webb, was born in Shelbyville, Ind., in 1884. He became a student of William Forsyth, a prominent Hoosier artist at the turn of the century.

Local sources tell me that four art students, a young girl and three men, went off to Europe to study. Later, one of the men married the girl, and the other two men remained bachelors, living together in a New York studio until they became too old to paint any longer due to arthritis. Fred Ross died in 1964 at the age of 80 years.

Ross became very successful with his oil portraits and Catholic church murals after his return from Europe. He was quite famous in the East, but relatively unappreciated in his native Hoosier state.

One of his earlier paintings, "Etude," was owned by the James Walsh family in Terre Haute. They knew the whereabouts of some of his family portraits and another oil, "Man in Armor."

The 20-foot by 20-foot mural of the "Signing of the Magna Charta" is especially interesting to those whose ancestors are depicted as one of the barons. Saire de Quincey, Earl of Winchester, who died in 1219 was one of my ancestors.

Of the 25 surety barons, 17 left descendants whose heritage is represented in the National Society Magna Charta Dames instituted in 1909.

Often called the cornerstone of free government, the Magna Charta was a great step upward for the English people. Originally written in Latin, the "great charter" was an agreement which King John of England made with the English barons.

Complaining that King John was taking away some of their rights, the barons drew up a list of rights and asked him to sign it. When he read the charter he cried, "Why not ask for my kingdom?" and delayed signing the document.

Finally, the barons marched against the King. They met him on the plains of Runnymede near the Thames River. Seeing he had no choice he signed what was to be called the Magna Charta.

It provided the promise that "taxes cannot be decided on by the King alone and collected by force." Another provision was the promise that "no free man can be seized and kept in prison without a fair trial."

The story goes that King John flew into a great rage after he had signed, and tried later to get out of the agreement. But the barons stood firm, and the charter remained in force to remind later rulers that there are laws which even a king may not break.

The Magna Charta signed 774 years ago has come to stand for the power of the constitution over the king. It provided for the election of church dignitaries without the interference of the king. It pledged the sovereign not to levy aid without the consent of the common council of the kingdom. It limited fines to a reasonable amount, and it provided for uniform weights and measures for the protection of merchants at home and abroad, and the claims a lord might make over his vassal.

One of the most important clauses, known in history as the 39th article, declares that no free man shall be taken or imprisoned or outlawed except by the lawful judgment of a jury of his peers or by the lawful judgment of the land.

There are four extant copies of this historic document. It was written in bold black letter and contained 49 articles, later increased to 63 articles, setting forth the rights and privileges of each class of citizens and specified the powers of the king.

Interested persons may get permission to see the beautiful mural. Those who study heraldry will be most interested in the vivid coloring depicted in the armorial bearings of the English barons.

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Community Affairs File

Pioneer doctor

First physician delivered care on horseback

Ts JUN 18 1989

Clark, Dorothy J.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Dr. Charles B. Modesitt was called Terre Haute's first physician. In fact, he was the pioneer doctor on Fort Harrison prairie where he lived before the city had a tangible existence.

Born in Prince William County in northeastern Virginia, Modesitt was educated at Prince William College before trying to locate a suitable place to practice, first in Ohio in 1814, then farther west. He was described as tall, handsome and courteous. In later years this snowy-haired man with his Virginia courtliness was considered of the "old school."

He bought lots at the first sale of the Terre Haute Company in 1816, and secured for his home the then-beautiful lot opposite the jail on Ohio Street. His daughter, Mrs. Warren, remembered it as high ground with grassy and flowery slopes descending to the river.

In the center of this lot he built a two-story house of hewn logs, and when it was completed, Dr. Modesitt rode to his new home, carrying his little girl of 2½ years on a pillow on the saddle before him, and the baby boy, Welton Modesitt, traveled in someone's arms riding beside him.

The doctor was a large buyer of outlots on the city plat, and once owned a number from South Sixth to far up North Sixth Street. As a side venture, he and Curtis Gilbert took out a license for a ferry across the Wabash River from the foot of Ohio Street. Gilbert afterwards built a house on the jail corner, opposite Dr. Modesitt's home.

His daughter's reminiscences told of her father's medical practice which required long horseback rides making house calls in the country on both sides of the river. She told of the old ferry and the doctor's homecoming late at night.

The family was uneasy when the father was riding late on the road through the dense woods across the river. Little Fanny and her brother, Welton, would sit on the river bank in the dark and wait for the call to the ferryman from the other shore.

There were reasons for some fears about the long, lonely rides in those early days. The Indians were not yet out of the country, although usually peaceable enough. They came to the doctor's house occasionally for treatment, and while those up the river were migrating, Mrs. Warren saw many of their little canoes floating down the Wabash.

While Dr. Modesitt was on a trip east in 1830, his wife died, aged 42 years, leaving three children: Frances, Welton and James. At the mother's death, Judge Demas Deming and Mr. Cruft showed kind attention to the children during the father's absence. Mr. Deming was always a valued friend of Mrs. Warren's.

Mrs. Deming told the story, as evidence of his thoughtfulness, that once before their marriage, she was going to a ball with the Judge, and he asked her if she would mind if he went to get little Fanny Modesitt and take her with them. She did not mind.

Mrs. Warren was once described as a "delightful type of some of the original Terre Haute people, an ardent admirer and eulogist of the first Terre Haute men and women and their village — never were finer, more upright and worthy men."

S. H. Potter, on the 50th anniversary of his arrival here, called on Mrs. Warren to speak of the pleasant memory of his early impressions. As he first looked over the little town and its surroundings, he said to his wife, "Our lot has fallen in a pleasant place."

Fanny Modesitt Warren, for several years after her marriage to Chauncey Warren, lived in the west end of the city on First Street, and then moved to 417 S. Sixth St., one of the first houses built on that street.

Dr. Modesitt passed the closing years of his life at this house and died there in 1848. His son, Welton Modesitt, became blind in his later years. In 1897, the only descendant bearing the name of the first settler was the young grandson of the Rev. Welton Modesitt.

Dr. Modesitt's son James was described as "a man in whom there was no guile."

For the most part, early physicians traveled their rounds on horseback, with their saddle bags thrown over their saddles. The contents of these bags was a never-ending curiosity. There were innumerable vials, small and large; well-folded packets, securely tied, containing white, red and variegated powders; also little cases filled with sharp lancets, and big cases with a variety of instruments, some of which were for wrenching out teeth, for the doctor was expected to meet every emergency, and to cure every human ill.

For the most part, sickness was confined to malaria. The terrain was perfect for breeding mosquitoes, but it was not known they were the source of spreading the ailment. Milk sickness was one disease that medical knowledge could not fathom in those days. Did the cow contract it from the water, wild grass or weed, and pass it on through the milk? No one knew.

Dr. Modesitt's Virginia training was evidenced in his custom of never saddling his own horse. All who knew him loved the southern gentleman who helped so many in pioneer Terre Haute.

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A Clark, Dorothy

Parade of prominent people

Background sketches tell of who's who in 1897

Ts APR 0 1 1990

Brief biographies of well-known citizens of Terre Haute of 93 years ago are popular. This week's column continues the parade of Who's Who of 1897.

When Highland Lawn Cemetery was purchased by the city, there was a great popular outcry against it. It was claimed that it could never be utilized in a practical way.

To one man more than to all others is due the praise for the attractiveness of Highland Lawn. He is James Bain, who became superintendent in June 1884, coming here from Cincinnati to tackle the new cemetery.

A native of Scotland, Bain came to this country in 1856 when he was 23 years old. At that young age, he had years of practical experience in his chosen profession on some of the finest estates in his native land.

Bain became head of the Horticultural Department at the State Agricultural College of Kentucky at Lexington. For seven years he was superintendent of parks of Cincinnati. When he came to Terre Haute, he gave up a good job as assistant superintendent of Spring Grove Cemetery at Cincinnati, one of the finest in the United States.

A good manager, Bain operated the cemeteries economically and achieved the very best results. By 1897 he was a member of the National Association of Cemetery Superintendents, and his professional reputation was widespread. He received inquiries from all over the country as to the proper management and conduct of cemeteries.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Charles Balch was born in 1863 in Lexington, Ky. He came to Terre Haute at the age of 3. He learned the plasterer's trade with John R. Coffin, and worked at that trade until September 1891, when he was appointed deputy to City Clerk Charles H. Goodwin.

He filled that position until August 1893 when he became deputy under city Treasurer W.W. Hauck.

In the Republican city nominating convention in 1894, he was the successful candidate, securing the nomination on the fifth ballot in one of the most exciting contests known in local political history.

He was elected by a plurality of 965, over the strong candidate George F. Seeman. Balch took office in September, and was successfully filling the post in 1897. He belonged to and was active in more secret societies and fraternal groups than any man in town, according to this historian's records.

John Barbazette, a member of the board of police commissioners, was appointed by Gov. Mount after the passage of the act reorganizing the police department in Terre Haute. A native of Vincennes, he was born in 1859, and worked with his father in the cattle business.

Barbazette came to Terre Haute in 1879. From 1882 until 1895 he had full charge of the cattle at the Wabash Distillery and absolute control of the immense interests of Morris & Klopfer. When the immense Indiana distillery started up in 1895, he took charge of the same department.

After coming to Terre Haute, he became active in local politics, becoming one of the stand-bys in the old Third Ward. He had never accepted a public office until appointed police commissioner. In 1897, he and his family resided in a handsome house on South Third Street. He also had other property interests.

One of the old established businesses in Terre Haute in 1897 was Baur's Pharmacy, at the corner of Seventh and Main streets. It was established by J.J. Baur many years before, and after his death was operated by his son, Arthur Baur.

A.B. Austin, his partner since 1888, received his first experience in the drug business with the old firm of T.H. Barr & Co., and for several years was in charge of its prescription department.

Frank E. Benjamin, postmaster of Terre Haute in 1897, was a native of New Jersey. He came to Indiana as a young boy with his parents. He enlisted in the Civil War at the age of 14 at Frankfort in the Seventy-Second Indiana. He weighed about 100 pounds. At the close of the war, he was mustered out at Nashville in July 1865.

For several years, he was an agent of the American Express Co. at Colfax and was promoted to a position in charge of the business of that company in Union Station at Indianapolis for 13 years.

During his residence there, he was prominent in politics and was elected a member of the Terre Haute City Council and served on several important committees.

Benjamin came to Terre Haute as the agent of the American Express Co. in 1886, and held that office until he was appointed postmaster by President McKinley. During the election campaign, Benjamin served as Vigo County Chairman, so his appointment came as no surprise.

Otto O. Carr was born in Linton Township in 1865, and lived on the farm until March 1886 when he moved to Terre Haute. Educated in the common schools, he attended State Normal and began teaching at the age of 19 and taught four years.

Carr was one of the first in Indiana to take the civil service exam for mail service and received an appointment. He was elected Harrison Township Assessor in 1894 by a large majority and was still employed in that capacity in 1897.

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Illinois pioneer blazed trails

Edgar County man eluded panthers in 'Big Okaw'

Ts AUG 1 1 1991

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Col. James M. Blackburn, a pioneer in Edgar County, Ill., was born in Bourbon County, Ky., where his parents moved from Pennsylvania. Bitterly opposed to slavery, the family left Kentucky when that state adopted a constitution admitting slavery.

They moved to Ohio, where they remained until 1816, when they moved again, this time to Knox County, Ind., settling in what later became Sullivan County.

The elder Blackburn died in 1817, but his wife lived to be 90. Following the death of his father, Col. Blackburn traveled to what is now Edgar County to look over the land and to enter several tracts.

In August 1820, he traveled to his new land, built a cabin and stable, and dug a well before returning to Indiana. The next year, he moved to his new home, settling on the land where he lived a very long life.

Active in the Black Hawk War, Blackburn was full of energy and participated in all community affairs. When the seat of government of Illinois was moved from Vandalia to Springfield, there was no road or trace from Edgar County to the new capitol. It became necessary to lay out a public highway from Paris to Springfield.

Amos Williams was appointed surveyor of this road. He went to Springfield with his chain-carriers, etc., and started to run a line to Paris. He didn't allow sufficiently for the variation of the compass, however, and struck the Sugar Creek timber 1½ miles northeast of Paris. When he realized where he was, he switched off to the south and finally got his line into town.

Williams had planted a three-foot stake about every 40 rods along the line, but the prairie grass was very tall and the stakes were not easily seen. The route was difficult to follow.

The route, as surveyed, led through the timber bordering the two branches of the Embarass River, and also the Big and Little Okaw rivers.

A day was appointed when the citizens of Edgar County would turn out en masse and cut a road through the timber, dig down the banks of the streams so that teams could cross, and make their way through the timber.

On the appointed day, only three men showed up to do the work: Blackburn, Samuel Vance and David Crosier. When no one else arrived to help, these three determined to cut the road through. Mounted on horseback, each man carried a little sack of corn to feed his horse, and lunch for himself.

Blackburn enjoyed telling the story of their labors. They worked hard all day, but night overtook them halfway between the two Okaw timbers.

They looked for a camping place, but could find nothing better than to "squat" in the middle of the prairie. Vance and Crosier hobbled their horses, fed them, and sat down to rest.

Blackburn intended to tie his horse's bridle around his wrist, but was so exhausted he fell asleep with the others.

Some time during the night he was awakened by the neighing of a horse. He sprang to his feet to find his horse gone. He mounted Crosier's horse and started back on the trace, thinking he would soon overtake his own horse.

Blackburn rode to the Big Okaw timber without finding his horse and gave up the chase. An old dead hickory tree burning at the top served as a sort of beacon light to guide his way across the prairie in the dark.

At this burning tree, he made a torch and rode through the bottom and the timber, and along the margin of the prairie searching for his horse.

Suddenly he discovered a panther, one of the largest he ever saw, scarcely 10 feet from him, its eyes shining like balls of fire. His horse had not yet seen it, so turning toward it, he shouted, "Charge!" and spurred directly at it. The panther leaped to one side and disappeared.

Thinking he might still be lurking nearby, and knowing the wild animal's fear of fire, he set his torch to a pile of brush and stayed by the bonfire until daylight.

He returned to his companions and told them of his adventure. They finished cutting the trace through the timber and started home.

Keeping a sharp lookout for panthers, they investigated some piles of prairie grass about half the size of a haystack and found remains of half-eaten game stored there. Some months later they heard of a party of hunters who had killed 17 panthers in the area where Blackburn had spent the night alone by the bonfire.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Angel of mercy

Local woman served as nurse during Civil War

TS APR 05 1992

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

At the time of the Civil War, nursing schools had not as yet been established. Women nurses in military hospitals were not required to have any formal training.

Their selection was based on age, appearance and reputation. They had to be at least 30 years old, plain in appearance, plain in dress, physically and morally strong, and have letters of recommendation from a pastor and a physician attesting to their skills and experience as a home nurse.

Gov. Oliver P. Morton was determined to care for Indiana's soldiers, and early on appointed William Hannaman as president of the Indiana Sanitary Commission. He reported his agency sent about 250 nurses between 1863-65.

As early as the spring of 1861, however, women accompanied soldiers when regiments were first organized, to help with practical everyday chores such as laundry and supply-keeping and to serve as nurses when needed.

Wives accompanied officer husbands, surgeons, and privates alike. They worked as nurses at Camp Morton, first a training camp for Indiana volunteers, and then a prison for Confederate soldiers.

By January 1863, Hannaman needed more women nurses for hospitals swollen with thousands of soldiers from General William Sherman's army. The volunteer nurses served in camps, hospital centers and on hospital ships. Many served until the end of the war or until their own health was broken.

Mary E. Venard of Terre Haute was one of 14 nurses who left for Nashville in early February 1863. "I was then 41 years of age," she wrote later.

According to the "Indiana Magazine of History," March 1990, Venard was appointed by Hannaman and managed a home for refugees in Indianapolis during the last year of the war. When it closed in April 1865, she worked at a home for destitute women and then helped close Camp Morton.

"I was first sent to Nashville, Tenn., for three months, but stayed six. Was in the Howard High School building, and had charge of the Diet Kitchen, but at the same time I did a great deal of nursing ...

"From Nashville, I returned to my home, where I remained 10 weeks; then received strict orders to go immediately to Natchez, Miss. I was in the Marine Hospital and the fort was built up around us. This was the fall after the siege of Vicksburg, and for days we expected to be attacked, and had everything in readiness to be removed at a moment's notice ...

"The surgeon in charge proposed that if we were attacked, I should leave immediately with him in the ambulance. His very kind offer I declined, telling him if I HAD to leave, it would be at the last moment; then I would run down the hill, and, if necessary, defend myself."

Mary E. Venard died March 28, 1908, at the age of 85 years, 2 months and 25 days, of general debility, at her home, 836 N. Center St., Terre Haute.

The funeral services were directed by the John P. Baird Post of the Women's Relief Corps, of which she was a member. She was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The obituary outlined her career as a Civil War nurse. Following her 18 months tour of duty at the Natchez Marine Hospital, she was put in charge of the Refugee home at Indianapolis where she served until President Lincoln's assassination, and the closing of the home.

She was assigned to the Old Ladies Home in Indianapolis, and remained there until its close soon after the close of the war. She then returned to Terre Haute where she resided the rest of her life.

Members of the Relief Corps recalled stories she told of her army nurse experiences. During a very hard fought battle, an ambulance came to her assistance while she was caring for a wounded soldier.

A soldier dismounted from the vehicle to help put the injured man inside when a cannon ball cut down a small tree nearby. When the soldier heard it coming he dodged and put his hand over his face. She said the danger was on all sides, not just from that one cannon ball and thought the action "funny."

Although paralyzed for four years before her death, Venard kept her cheerful disposition. Her many friends were amazed at her ability to cope with life and keep so good-natured, always with a hearty laugh and a joke.

Living on her monthly government pension of $12, she would sit in her chair and knit and tell her army experiences to eager listeners.

The oldest nurse in the city, if not in the state, there were only two other Civil War army nurses who survived her in 1908.

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Community Affairs File

Cromwell descendent Clay settler

Ts JUN 13 19[illegible] Clark, Dorothy (D) [illegible] (24)

Man of many interests contributed much to community

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

An early settler of Clay County happened to be a descendant of the famous Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the English Commonwealth, who reigned in the years 1599-1658.

It seems Cromwell had two sons, Richard and Henry. Henry moved to Ireland where his son, Thomas Ireton Cromwell, was born. Thomas I. Cromwell migrated from Ireland to America, and settled in Maryland where his children were born and reared.

One of his sons, William Lewis Cromwell, migrated from Maryland to Kentucky when a young man and died there. His son, Nicholas G. Cromwell, was born and reared in Kentucky, but moved to Indiana in 1825, becoming one of the first settlers of Clay County. He took up government land, clearing and improving a good farm.

His son, Owen Doyle Cromwell, was 9 years old when he came to Indiana with his parents. He later married Huldah Parsons Ridley and had 10 children. His sixth child, Davis Taylor Cromwell, married Rebecca A. Notter and they had seven children.

Two of those children became well known Terre Haute residents, Beecher Cromwell and Oliver "Bud" Cromwell.

Born June 12, 1883, in a log cabin south of Clay City, Beecher Cromwell's formal education ended with the eighth grade. He had completed a normal school institute course in his schooling in preparation for teaching, but decided to forego the teaching career chosen for him by his father.

Both of his parents were school teachers in Clay County. His father taught for 18 years, was admitted to the bar in the 1880s to practice law, and was a successful general store and traveling wagon store operator in the Coal City and Odon areas.

Reared near the Harrison Mine, east of Clay City, Beecher had learned to run pumps and hoisting engines, and many other jobs around a coal mine.

In his teens, he was a telephone lineman, installation man, and trouble shooter. As an employee of the National Electric Supply Co., he did the first telephone wiring of homes in Hymera and Coalmont.

His innate ability to meet the challenges and succeed in most any type of work sparked his colorful and diversified series of jobs, business ventures and investments.

At the age of 19, he was top boss at the Jasonville Hoosier Mine. He moved to Terre Haute to work as a cost-accountant and paymaster for the Pennsylvania Coal Co. at 10th Street and Wabash Avenue. He returned to Jasonville as a weigh boss at Latta's Creek Mine.

Cromwell launched a variety of business ventures in Jasonville. Soon he owned and operated four theaters, a confectionery, and a piano store. He was a carnival barker. He also was an expert piano-tuner for the Kimball Piano Co., and served as credit manager for the company in southern Indiana and Illinois.

A fire in Jasonville destroyed his theaters and other business establishments, so he moved to Terre Haute to become credit manager and piano-tuner with the Kimball Co. The need for a good piano moving concern in Terre Haute inspired him to go into the cartage business in 1918 when he bought his first truck. He owned and operated the first covered moving vans in this area. In 1925, he purchased property at 200 N. Third St. for storage and merchandise sales.

The Beecher Cromwell Band and Orchestra was organized in 1920 and played for numerous dances, weddings and receptions. He played professionally the banjo, drums, piccolo and saxaphone. This band was later taken over by his brother, Oliver "Bud" Cromwell, born March 9, 1899.

From 1932 to 1938, Beecher Cromwell also was engaged in the used-car business. A popular auctioneer, he conducted twice-a-week auctions in Terre Haute and frequently was hired to conduct auctions in Indianapoils.

Over the years, Cromwell acquired substantial real-state holdings and built up a sizeable number of rental properties in the community.

He married Lillian Jean in Clay City in 1906. She died in 1959. Their only child, a daughter, died of pneumonia at an early age. After his wife's death, he lived alone in the family home at 115 N. Eighth St.

His gift of $100,000 to Indiana State University was one of the largest ever received. The gift included a $60,000 property, the old Cromwell furniture and auction building that adjoined the campus at the northwest corner of Third and Mulberry streets.

Oddly enough, there are other descendants of historic Oliver Cromwell who migrated to Clay County, but they are not directly connected. Except for the famous ancestor, the distinctly different lines of Cromwell could only be classed as very distant "shirt-tail" cousins.

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1994

Valley heritage

Clark, Dorothy

Eli St. Clair lived colorful life

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

A few years ago, this writer was researching the St. Clair family. It never fails to happen when word gets around that local history is being dug up that helpful people begin sending or bringing it in. Word on the St. Clair family is still coming in.

From an old newspaper clipping I learned that Eli St. Clair celebrated his 97th birthday on March 27, 1891. It was a quiet event with his family and friends at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Smock, who lived on the historic site known as Fort Harrison.

Born in 1794 in Sussex County, Del., St. Clair had only a faint recollection of his parents. His father served in the Revolutionary War, and moved his family to Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Monongahela River, when Eli was less than a year old.

Soon the family began the long journey to Kentucky, settling at Hardensburg when Eli was 6. In 1812, he married the daughter of Benjamin and Polly (Maladay) Siner, Fannie Siner, who was not quite 15.

The marriage license of Breckinridge County, Ky., gives his name as Eli Simpler, and in other records there are other spellings such as Sinclair, Sinklear and Sinkler.

With two babies, Eli and Fannie decided to leave Kentucky and move to Indiana, where they settled first in Sullivan County, near Carlisle.

In 1838, Eli St. Clair and his family of 12 children — Lavina, born 1814; Polly, 1816; Nelson, 1818; Benjamin, 1819; Andrew Jackson, 1820; Ellender Jane, 1822; Cynthia Eveline, 1823/24; Emily Maria, 1825/26; William James, 1827; Clemsey Curry, 1829; Richard Lane, 1830, and John Martin, 1832 — came to Terre Haute.

The family stayed for a while in "Old Jonny" Burton's log cabin, which was later the site of the well in Woodlawn Cemetery. The location was not used as a burial ground then. The original cemetery was directly south of the house.

It was not the most cheerful spot in the world to live, next door to a graveyard, but the St. Clair family was made of stern stuff, and gave no heed to the gloomy white tombstones within a stone's throw of their door.

After living in Terre Haute for several years, Eli, his wife and several of his children moved to Minnesota and commenced farming. As he was the first settler in that area, it was called St. Clair's Bluff. Becoming dissatisfied, the St. Clair family returned to Vigo county, and settled in Honey Creek Township.

During his nearly century of life, St. Clair had been a farmer, carpenter, river pilot and well digger. During the early days he had been a flatboat pilot between Terre Haute and New Orleans, making between 50 and 60 trips down the Wabash and back.

Engaged by Jim Johnston, a storekeeper on Main Street, he took the cargo to New Orleans, disposed of it for "1,000 in a solid chunk of gold." He placed the gold in a sack, sewed the sack to his shirt, and it was never seen from the time it was given to him until he turned it over to Johnston.

During his stay in Sullivan County, the Indians were very troublesome. St. Clair could tell some terrifying tales.

He accompanied Col. Ledgerwood to Chicago on foot, and they had the honor of nailing down the floor in the first courthouse there.

It seems the workman walked off the job when the building was nearly finished and would not return. The planks were all dressed and stacked in the courthouse when Col. Ledgerwood secured the contract, and the two men put down the floor.

During his residence in Terre Haute, St. Clair had watched the town grow up into a large city. He had seen the cornfields and woods disappear to make room for buildings. Making a living digging wells was a dangerous occupation in those early days, and the old gentleman carried scars to prove it.

His wife died in 1862; one son was drowned in 1840, and his other children lived until 1886, when one-by-one they passed away. In 1891, on his birthday, he still had seven children living, and more grandchildren and their progeny, than he could begin to name. He died April 6, 1892.

Maud Russel of California, one of his descendants, contributed her memories of Aunt Polly Smock's house at Fort Harrison and the time she spent as a child playing on the banks of the Wabash river, which ran in front of the house.

"The Wabash was big and wonderful," she said. "I would stay so long down there playing with the rocks and toads that she would send someone down to see if I was drowned yet. I always took some of the rocks home with me to Illinois, but not the toads. How the world does change and all of us with it. However, someone on the radio said, 'The past is only a memory away.' "

1994 #1.

* Clark, Dorothy (4) * Biography

Adams influential in Terre Haute life

Ts MAY 22 1994 (15)

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

For nearly 40 years, Carrie B. Adams was an important part of Terre Haute's religious, musical and social life.

Soon after the marriage of Carrie B. and Allyn G. Adams in Paris, Ill., in 1880, Mr. Adams was employed by the W.H. Paige Music Co. in Terre Haute. In March 1882, the young couple moved to Terre Haute and rented the house of E. Frank Howe on South Seventh Street

Because it was fully eight blocks from Main Street, the Adamses always rode one way in the Herdic, walking two blocks over to Sixth Street to catch the car. The Herdic was the mule- or horse-drawn streetcar, the only public transportation of the '80s.

Mrs. Adams always remembered the large plate-glass windows with their beautiful scrim curtains on South Sixth Street as she rode by in the lumbering Herdic.

Thinking to save Herdic fares, the young couple acquired an old pony and phaeton, but the cost of feeding the animal was more than they bargained for.

They took trips of discovery every Sunday afternoon, and, on one occasion, drove out to view the site of the Rose Orphan Home, the Rose Polytechnic Institute campus and the northwest corner of 13th and Locust streets. The trip took some three or four hours to negotiate, and they arrived back at the old First Congregational Church at Sixth and Cherry streets in time for evening service.

Another favorite drive was out east on bumpy old Poplar Street in the days of no pavement to Lake Fluvanna on the Joseph Gilbert farm on South Fruitridge Avenue, where all the church picnics were held.

Mrs. Adams was astonished to hear that the Allen girls, daughters of Judge Allen, had actually walked out to see Josephus Collett's gift of 22 acres of trees beyond the corn fields, some two miles north of Main Street. Some folks said it was not worth going to see.

One Sunday afternoon, the Adamses got as far as the old Scott home on North Seventh Street (at what is now Eighth Avenue, but was then known as the County Road) on their way to see Collett Park for themselves, when they had to give it up and turn back to arrive at church before 7:30 p.m.

The Scott home was where the Clara Fairbanks Home was until it was recently demolished and the property became another Union Hospital parking lot.

Mrs. Adams was hired in 1882 to take charge of the organ and choir at First Congregational Church. Some of the choir members were Flora Keller, Ida Ensey, George Hughes and Allyn Adams.

Later, Mrs. Hoberg and Dan Davis joined the choir, and later still, Anna Hude Hagar, Mollie Katzenbach Richardson, Mrs. Howard Mater, Anna Auble Buntin and John Aikman.

Mrs. Adams' 28 years of continuous service were interrupted when she served two years at Centenary Church shortly after their fine O'Dell organ was installed. Moving spirits of Centenary at that time were W.S. Roney, J. Smith Talley, J.H. Landrum and I.H.C. Royce.

Rented pews were in vogue in that old First Congregational Church, and Mrs. Adams knew exactly where to look for the Brokaws, Dr. Worrell, the Gilberts, Peddles, Fullers, Duncans, Rosses, Perdues, Reas, Paddocks, Kidders, Oakeys, Fosters, McKeens, Warrens, Hunleys, Paiges, and many others, with Demas Deming, Col. Nelson, Col. McLean, and sometimes Senator Voorhees looming up in the rear seats.

The Adamses left for Portland, Ore., in 1920 to be near their son, Stanley Adams. Attorney Adams was with the American Hominy Co.

At that time the company could have ground the entire corn crop of Oregon in two days. According to Adams, the Oregon corn had a long way to go before it could equal Indiana corn.

Carrie B. Adams was well-known for her choir books, glee-club song books, and the operettas, cantatas and special-day service music she had composed and published. She died in 1940 at the age of 81 years in Oregon. Her husband and son had preceded her in death.

She was the first woman in America to direct Handel's "The Messiah." At the time of her death, she had composed more church music than any other woman in America and had won national fame as a composer of 4,000 anthems, 12 cantatas, six operettas, and numerous other works. Many were first produced in Terre Haute under her direction.

In addition to her church efforts, Carrie B. Adams was the head of the music department of Indiana State Teachers College for seven years and director of the Rose Polytechnic Institute glee club for 12 years.

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

Three men who contributed so much to Terre Haute's early growth were Thomas Dowling, David S. Danaldson and Judge Thomas B. Long.

Dowling, a distinguished resident of Vigo County, was born in Ireland in 1810 and came to America in 1818. When he was 8, his parents died, and he was thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood. Another source says he was born in 1806 and came to America in 1814.

Young Dowling entered the printing office of the National Intelligencer at Washington, D.C. and remained there 14 years or until he was 22.

During this time he had become thoroughly self-educated and had gained a practical knowledge of the political events of the country.

In 1832, he came to Terre Haute where he started the Wabash Courier. In 1842 he became editor and proprietor of the Express, which he conducted with energy and ability as a Whig paper until 1845.

Previous to this he had served eight years as a member of the Indiana Legislature, in which he became a prominent legislator.

In 1864, he erected Dowling Hall on North Sixth Street at a cost of $60,000. He was active in all leading enterprises of the city — always for the good of the county and the city.

In June 1873, he was unanimously chosen as head of the county commissioners. Grave difficulties had arisen concerning certain alleged extravagant schemes, which were calculated to burden the people with enormous taxation for proposed public improvements. Vigo County was carried through this political storm safely, chiefly through his energy and honesty of purpose.

Col. Dowling was an ardent horse racing fan, a trustee of the Wabash & Erie Canal from 1850 until his death, an official of the Savings Bank from 1869 to 1876 and a member of the City Council from 1867 to 1871.

Dowling Hall was situated where the Chanticleer Building is now. It was built at the close of the Civil War and was the first important amusement hall in Terre Haute.

The Dowling Home at Fifth Street and First Avenue was erected about the beginning of the Civil War and was the largest pioneer home of the northwest part of the city.

After the dissolution of the Whig Party, Dowling became a Democrat and was a member of the National Democratic Committee at the time of his death in 1876.

Danaldson was born in Kentucky in 1809. He received his education in a log schoolhouse there. In 1835, he came to Terre Haute, first engaging in the dry goods business. At this time, the village extended only to Third Street. His business was burnt out in 1839 but after a time started again in the same business.

In 1845, he purchased from Dowling the Wabash Express and conducted that paper as editor and proprietor until 1853 when he sold out. During his newspaper experience he started the first daily paper ever printed in Terre Haute. This experiment was, at that time, unsuccessful.

After disposing of his newspaper establishment, he returned to the dry goods business. At the close of the Civil War he sold out to his partner and commenced the prosecution of pension claims. He died in 1894 at the age of 85 years.

Long was born near Mansfield, Ohio, in 1836. His father's family later lived in Mansfield, Bucyrus and Springfield, Ohio, and in 1846, moved to Terre Haute.

Thomas received his education here, including some college studies and in 1854 entered the law office of the Hon. Richard W. Thompson as a student where he remained for several years. During that time, he attended lectures in the law department of the Cincinnati College and graduated in the spring of 1856.

That fall he was elected district attorney for the court of common pleas and about the same time was engaged as editor of one of the daily papers of the city for about two years. Then he withdrew to devote his entire time to his law practice.

In 1860 he was placed upon the presidential ticket of the Union Party as a candidate for elector. Seeing the hopelessness of his party, he urged all wavering voters to support Stephen A. Douglas for president.

He applied himself diligently to his professional pursuits and literary studies until the fall of 1870, when he was elected by the Democratic Party as judge of the Criminal Circuit Court, a position he filled so well that in 1874 — though political feeling ran high — he received the nomination of both parties and was re-elected without opposition.

Judge Long was a fluent speaker and a graceful writer and acquired some fame as a poet and ballad composer when his songs were set to music and published in the principal cities of the United States.

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From pioneer to education great

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

The life and accomplishments of Barnabas C. Hobbs, are difficult to ferret out in books in the libraries, just bits and pieces of the unusual biography and contributions to all who came after him.

He was born near Salem in Washington County on Oct. 4, 1815. His early years were passed in familiar ways with the trials, privation and labors of pioneer life, and his education was such as was to be had in the log schoolhouses of that day.

It seems that when Barnabas was 18 years old, he entered the county seminary and lived in the home of Benjamin Parke, then U.S. Judge for the District of Indiana and a great influence in Hobbs' life.

Hobbs began school teaching when he was 18 and in 1837 became acquainted with William H. McGuffey, the author of the Eclectic Readers, who opened the way for him to enter Cincinnati College, over which he then presided. Hobbs continued to teach to pay his expenses, Here he came in contact with some of the greatest teachers of the day, and this had much to do with determining his future character.

He was soon employed as principal teacher in Jefferson county, Ohio, where he remained nearly four years until his marriage. A favorable opening induced him to establish a school at Richmond in spring 1843.

After a successful four years, he accepted superintendency of a Friends' boarding school, now Earlham College, for two years.

In 1851 he moved to Parke County to take the presidency of Bloomingdale Academy, staying there for nearly 16 years.

At the extra session of the Legislature of 1865, a law was passed creating a State Normal School, an institution for which Hobbs had long and earnestly labored. He was appointed by Gov. Morton as one of the trustees, a position he held for some time.

During the summer of 1866 he was chosen the first president of Earlham College and professor of English literature. After two years he was elected superintendent of public instruction in 1868.

His duties kept him busy with county visits, public addresses and official reports. He advocated additional taxation for the extension of the school term in rural districts, county superintendents, changes in our school laws and the perfection of our public school system so that the common school would grade properly into the high school and the high school into the college and state university. He also advocated the rights of African-American citizens to the benefits of school funds.

As chairman of a committee of the National Superintendents Association at Washington he proposed national legislation to equalize the school funds of the states, especially Southern states, where school funds had been lost by the Civil War.

Barnabas C. Hobbs was one of the trustees and incorporators of the Terre Haute Industrial School and had charge of selecting and sustaining, at the State Normal School, about 20 young women, by the liberality of Chauncey Rose.

After Hobbs had finished his term of service as state superintendent, he returned to his home at Bloomingdale Academy.

Although he was unable to complete his regular college course because of finances, his success in his chosen profession secured for him an honorary master's degree from Wabash College in 1858, and the degree of Doctor of Laws by the State University (later Indiana University) in 1870.

Hobbs was employed by the state geologist in 1872 to make a geological survey of Parke County. His report may be found in the geological reports for that year.

A member of the Society of Friends, he was approved as a Quaker minister for more than 20 years, but he was liberal and tolerant towards all.

Barnabas C. Hobbs was well known in Terre Haute and was called on to officiate at many important occasions having to do with schools and education. He was closely tied to the planning and building of the Indiana State Teachers College at Terre Haute, and he was here for the ceremonies announcing its opening.

Oddly enough though, as often as we find his name, nothing could be found of a biographical nature in any of our local county histories, etc. Goodrich's "History of Indiana," published in 1875, does tell something about Hobbs' life and major accomplishments.

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